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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XIV. PITTSBURGH, MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 25, 1876. NO. 92.

The Daily and Weekly Commercial—Newspaper Decisions.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice, whether directed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payments.

2. If a person orders his papers discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

3. The Courts have decided that refusing to take Newspapers or Periodicals from the Postoffice, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

☞ REMITTANCES must be made in Money Orders, Bank Checks or Drafts, if possible. When neither of these can be procured, send the Money in a Registered Letter. The present Registration system is virtually an Absolute Protection Against Losses by mail, and all Postmasters are obliged to register letters whenever requested to do so.

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FIRST EDITION.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Matters in the East.

PROCLAMATION OF NEW TURKISH CONSTITUTION—ITS PROVISIONS.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 23.—The new Turkish Constitution was solemnly proclaimed to-day. It consists, in substance, of the following provisions: The Empire is indivisible; the Sultan is Caliph of the Mussulmans and sovereign of all the Ottomans; his prerogatives are those of the constitutional sovereigns of the West; the subjects of the Empire are called Ottomans; their liberty is inviolable; Islamism is the religion of the State, but it shall not have any other distinction of a theocratic character; the religious privileges of communities and the free exercise of public worship by all creeds are guaranteed; liberty of the press and freedom of education are guaranteed; primary education is compulsory; the right of association and right of petition to the Chambers are accorded; all individuals are equal in the eyes of the law; all are eligible to public offices, irrespective of religion; taxes are to be equally divided; special laws are indispensable to authorize their collection; rights of property are guaranteed; the domicile is inviolable; the functions of tribunals are defined; no one may be deprived of his natural rights by judges; legal proceedings are to be public; the rights of defense are recognized; all judgments are to be published; the ministry has no right to interfere in judicial matters; the confiscation statute, labor, torture and inquisition are prohibited; ministerial responsibility is established; ministers impeached by the Chamber will be judged by a high court consisting of the chief judicial and administrative functionaries; no public official can be dismissed without legitimate grounds; the responsibility is maintained, and they cannot be released from it by the fact of having received orders from a superior, if those orders are contrary to law; two chambers will be instituted, a Chamber of Deputies and a Senate; they will possess the power, from the Sultan, and have the freedom of voting and expressing opinions; the system of imperative mandate is prohibited; the initiative of framing laws belongs to the ministers and Chamber of Deputies; laws submitted by the Chamber of Deputies and revised by the Senate require the Imperial sanction; the Senate can reject laws contrary to the Constitution; the judges and functionaries are irremovable; a court of accounts, which is irremovable except by a vote of the Chamber of Deputies, will annually present to the Chamber a complete financial statement; provincial administration will be on the broadest basis of decentralization; general and municipal councils are to be formed by election; finally, the Constitution can only to be modified by a vote of both Chambers and the sanction of the Sultan.

WHAT THE NEW GRAND VIZIER SAYS.

LONDON, December 23.—A dispatch from Constantinople to the *Pall Mall Gazette* states that Midhat Pacha, the newly appointed Grand Vizier, in conversation with the Marquis of Salisbury, said:

"The Turks have decided to accept no terms giving exclusive administration to Bulgaria, Bosnia or Herzegovina. We intend," he said, "giving larger reforms to our subjects based on the Turkish law. If with you, don't count. Europe asks us to cut our throats. We must trouble Europe to do it for us if they are to be cut. We came here a small number. If we go away we go as we came, leaving England to cover the graves of those left behind."

TURKS DISPOSED TO BE REASONABLE.

LONDON, December 23.—The *Daily Telegraph's* special from Pera says: Midhat Pasha, on Thursday, communicated to the Sultan the informal conclusions of the European plenipotentiaries. At this interview it was resolved that Turkey could yield in nothing which would impeach her independence. Other special correspondents think Turkey would accept the proposals of the Powers. The *Standard* and *Times'* representatives express themselves strongly of this opinion. The *Times'* dispatch declares that the majority of the Turks seems disposed to be reasonable.

OCCUPATION OF BULGARIA BY BELGIANS.

BRUSSELS, December 24.—It is positively stated that serious negotiations are still proceeding for the occupation of Bulgaria by Belgian troops.

THE PROGRAMME OF REFORMS.

LONDON, December 25.—The *Times'* dispatch from Berlin says: The Belgian Government has declined the occupation proposition, the plenipotentiaries in Constantinople concluded to leave the occupation arrangement undecided for the moment, and notify the Porte that guarantees would be satisfied after the programme of reforms is indorsed by the Sultan. This programme has been communicated to Midhat Pasha, and will neither be indorsed nor rejected in toto.

FIRST SITTING OF THE PLENARY CONFERENCE.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 25.—The first sitting of the plenary conference was held yesterday. Savfet Pasha presided, and in an address opening the conference referred to the liberal views of the Porte. He said the Porte was ready to grant to its subjects all the privileges which were not contrary to the dignity and integrity of the Empire. The first business was the formal verification of the credentials of the plenipotentiaries, which was completed. During the sitting salvos of artillery were heard. Savfet Pasha explained that these salutes were fired to announce the promulgation of the Constitution, which would effect a complete change in the state of Turkey. An analysis of the results of the preliminary conference was afterwards presented to Savfet Pasha, who asked for time to examine the documents. The conference will probably meet again next Thursday, when the question of prolonging the armistice will be discussed. It is thought probable that a prolongation of fifteen days will be proposed, and the conference will then adjourn until Saturday, on account of the Mohammedan festivals.

FEELING AMONG MUSSELMANS.

LONDON, December 25.—A telegram from Constantinople reports that Midhat Pasha daily receives addresses from Musselmans offering to sacrifice life and fortune for the integrity of the Empire.

The new Constitution ordains that Deputies shall be elected by secret ballots, and Senators appointed for life by the Sultan.

PREPARATIONS FOR MARCH OF RUSSIAN ARMY.

LONDON, December 25.—A dispatch from Bucharest says great preparations are making at Kischeneff for the march of the Russian army.

Notwithstanding this alarming telegram, it is expected that to gain time either the armistice will be prolonged or hostilities will be merely nominal, as they were during some part of the Servian war. Few people believe Russia will risk the destruction of her army by a Bulgarian winter. Russia may cross the Pruth, but will hardly send any forces across the Danube before spring. The mobilization of the three Austrian army corps in Dalmatia, Croatia and Transylvania would be complete but for the excessive number of horses and vehicles required.

COMMUNISM IN RUSSIA.

LONDON, December 25.—The *Times'* correspondent at St. Petersburg writes that news has been received that a widespread association, whose motto is "Federation and Liberty," has been discovered at Moscow, the aim of which was to make Russia a federal republic, divided into five States, to depose the dynasty, to abolish the aristocracy and to establish communism. There may be some exaggeration in these reports, but every one, including members of the Government, has been long convinced that the whole ground is deeply undermined by Socialist agitation.

THE PROPOSED REFORMS.

LONDON, December 25.—A dispatch from Constantinople to the *Daily News* says the project of reforms submitted to the Porte includes the division of Bulgaria into two provinces: popular election of mayors of towns; the Governor General to have complete control of the police force; the organization of law courts to be left in a great measure to an international commission; foreigners to be eligible for legal appointments, if the commission finds their appointment necessary; only thirty per cent. of taxes to be paid to the Porte; the militia not to exceed one per cent. of the male population. The words, "foreign occupation," are omitted from the project. The guaranteeing is termed the *gendarmerie* of foreign troops, and is to the number of 3,000 or 4,000. Provision is made for a Christian Governor and an elective Assembly, etc., as previously reported.

A dispatch from Constantinople says Sir H. G. Elliott, British Ambassador, with his family, will leave that city on Thursday, it is stated because of ill health.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR SANITARY SERVICE.

ST. PETERSBURG, December 25.—The Red Cross Society announces that the Czar having granted permission, subscriptions will be received for the benefit of the sanitary service of the mobilized army.

FOREIGN NOTES.

Servia has most readily rendered complete satisfaction for firing on the Austrian steamer Maros at Belgrade. The Austrian flag was solemnly saluted on Saturday.

The French Senate on Saturday passed the public worship estimates, restoring the salary of the clergy, which had been rejected by the Chamber of Deputies. The Senate also reinserted the grant for seminary scholarships, which was likewise suppressed by the Chamber.

The steamships Frisia, from New York, and Ohio, from Philadelphia, have arrived out.

The sentences of sixty-one more French communists convicts were remitted or commuted.

The London *Times* says the United States Congress is perfectly within its competence in considering how the surplus money of the Geneva award shall be appropriated. The indemnity was paid for losses which the United States, as a whole, was held to have sustained, not what individuals proved to have sustained. It would be too much, perhaps, to expect any conscience in Congress sensitive enough to inquire whether the Geneva award was too high, and consequently that portion of the unappropriated balance might be returned. We would be sorry to see such a delicate question raised, interesting as it would be.

The steamship Britannic, Captain Thompson, from New York December 16th, arrived at Queenstown at 1:30 yesterday morning, making the passage in seven days and thirteen hours, the quickest trip on record.

The English mail steamer from St. Adams, December 17, brings to Havana advices from the city of San Domingo to December 10th. Another revolution had taken place in San Domingo. President Gonsalez, who was called back to power when President Ezphaiat was deposed, again resigned his office on the 9th inst., and embarked for Layaquz, Porto Rico. This event was the result of a general rising of the Baezist party in the streets of San Domingo. Fighting followed, and continued several days. When President Gonzales heard that the Northern provinces had likewise risen against him, he resigned to prevent further bloodshed, and retired to the United States Consulate, whence he took passage for Porto Rico. Immediately after his resignation a provisional government was organized and a vessel dispatched to Curacoa, where ex-President Baez resides, to convey to him the news of his restoration to the presidency. It is affirmed that the principal course of Gonzales' resignation was the treason of General Villanguna, from the President had always considered his best friend and firmest supporter. When Gonzales heard that the General had joined the revolution against him, he gave up the struggle. Commerce was completely paralyzed by these events, and money was scarce.

The Vienna correspondent reports that a large number of prisoners of both sexes, some of whom have been in jail seven months, will be tried at Moscow in January for participation in a Socialist conspiracy.

Sad accounts of disasters to shipping during the recent storm on the British coast continue to come in. Many additional wrecks are reported on the Scotch coast, and in several cases all hands were lost. On Saturday two unknown vessels, one of one thousand tons burden, disappeared off Arabroth, and are supposed to have foundered. A schooner, name unknown, was wrecked in Ackerville Bay and seven men drowned. A German boat was lost off Lossiemouth with fourteen lives. The brig Zephyr, of Holmestrand, and the bark Palmatra, were wrecked off Aberhead and all on board were drowned. Two unknown vessels were lost, with all hands, at the mouth of the Tay. It is believed there have been several wrecks of which no news will ever be obtained.

A collision took place on the railway near Hitchin, Hertordshire, England, on Saturday. Five persons were killed and thirty injured.

The English Postmaster General announces the discontinuance during January of the mail heretofore dispatched from London every Thursday evening for the United States.

XLIV. CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 23, 1876.

The Senate was not in session to-day.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Monroe was, his own request, excused from service on the committee to ascertain the powers of the House in counting the electoral vote.

Mr. Reagan offered a resolution, which was adopted, requesting the President to transmit to the House copies of all orders, correspondence, &c., relative to the limitation in the expenditure of the appropriations made for the improvement of rivers and harbors at the last session of Congress; also, all orders and correspondence emanating from the War Department on the same subject, and also to report under what authority and law such limitation was made.

Mr. Hewitt, of Alabama, asked leave to offer a resolution assigning the 4th day of January next, after the morning hour, for the consideration of the bill granting pensions to the soldiers of the Mexican and Florida wars.

Mr. Hale objected. There were not more than fifty members present, and he objected to this number fixing business ahead for the House.

On motion of Mr. Springer, the committee on the part of the House to determine the counting of the electoral vote was authorized to have compiled and printed for the use of the committee, all orders and precedents in relation to the counting of the electoral vote.

On motion of Mr. Faulkner, the Senate bill to amend the Revised Statutes so as to allow repayment of tonnage tax where erroneously imposed, was taken from the Speaker's table and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Atkins objected to further business. He thought it was understood that no business was to be done to-day.

The House accordingly, at 12:20, adjourned until Wednesday next.

FIRE RECORD.

Indianapolis had a $25,000 blaze on Saturday. Insurance $23,000.

The Anchor Flouring Mill at Lima, Ohio, owned by East & Lewis, was destroyed by fire Saturday morning. Loss $15,000; insurance $10,000.

The losses by fire in Little Rock for the past year, exclusive of the late conflagrations, were $133,750, with an insurance of $78,000. The city will soon let a contract for water works.

Fires on Friday night in the savings bank block and Fluent block, Portland, Maine, caused a total loss of about $50,000, distributed among the numerous occupants, most of whom were fully insured.

All the rear part of Maxwell, Scaling & Mulhall's pork house, on Second street, between Rutger & Convent streets, St. Louis, embracing the slaughtering department of the house, was burned between seven and eight o'clock yesterday morning. Loss $20,000; insured for $11,500, $2,000 in a Wheeling company. An incendiary was the cause, as no work had been done in the house this season, and no fires had been made in that part of the establishment. Eugene Crowe, Engineer of Fire Engine No. 8, was kicked in the head by one of the horses attached to the engine while on his way to the fire and his forehead crushed in. He will probably die.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Indications for To-Day.—Light rain or snow, followed by partly cloudy weather, northerly to westerly winds, rising barometer and slight changes in temperature.

The Congressional committees at New Orleans adjourned from Saturday until Tuesday. They developed nothing startling.

There were 281 deaths in Philadelphia during the week ending at noon on Saturday—a decrease of thirty-five from those of the preceding week. Of the whole number, 102 died from diseases of the respiratory organs.

The Democrats of Evansville, Ind., "gutiated" on Saturday night at the Court House, which was well filled, 200 to 300 being present. They had several speeches, generally moderate in tone, and passed a series of resolutions of the usual character.

Mr. Cox's committee, sitting in New York, on Saturday took up Hewitt's charge that his letters had been tampered with in that city, and examined Hewitt, who merely repeated his speech made in the House; James Gaylor, Superintendent of the city delivery department, and for many years the detecter of irregularities, who showed how it was impossible to commit the crime; and James Youmans, Superintendent of the out of town mails, who testified that the Congress mail goes direct to the Postmaster of the House. It is likely that Mr. Hewitt evolved his "facts" from his inner consciousness.

On Saturday a lieutenant of the Louisville police patrol called at the United States Marine Hospital there with a warrant of arrest for James Ford, a negro patient. Dr. T. J. Griffiths, surgeon in charge, told the officer that he had no right to arrest Ford by civil process, holding that the Government hospital is no part of Commonwealth of Kentucky, but a district exclusively within the jurisdiction of the United States court. The lieutenant sought legal advice, and was informed that he did have a right to arrest the man. He returned to take charge of Ford, and meeting the surgeon, was told that the one sought for had been discharged, and had left for parts unknown. The affair produces a decided sensation in Louisville, and especially among the legal fraternity.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Hewitt's Charges Against the Postoffice.

Inviolability of Private Telegrams.

The Stand Taken by Mr. Orton Generally Commended.

Work on Appropriation Bills During the Recess.

Democrats Want Army and Navy Bills Kept Back.

ILLINOIS U. S. SENATORSHIP.

General Grant Declines in Favor of Logan.

The International Meteorological System.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 24, 1876.

Hewitt's Charges Against The New York Postoffice.

Hewitt's loud proclamation of his allegations against the New York postoffice is in keeping with his utterances conveying a distorted statement of his interview with the President. Instead of making his complaints known quietly, so that the truth might be ascertained through the secret agents of the Government, they have been publicly announced by Hewitt himself that the verification of the charges will now, it is feared at the department, be impossible, for the person perpetrating the act, if Hewitt's statement is true, has had sufficient notification to put him on his guard.

Inviolability of Telegraphic Communications.

The position taken by the Western Union Telegraph Company in regard to the action of the House in subversion of the inviolability of private communications, meets with general approval here. It is believed that the House will be unable to maintain its position in point of law and precedent, and that any further military proceedings would only react upon the party which would undertake such a monstrous invasion of the rights of the people.

The Appropriation Bills.

The Committees on Appropriations will meet during the recess, and will endeavor to have all the appropriation bills ready to be presented early in January. Mr. Holman says that he has no purpose of delaying any bill on account of the Presidential complication. An effort is being made by some Democrats, on and off the committee, to induce him to withhold the Army and Navy Appropriation bills until the last.

The Illinois United States Senatorship.

According to the intelligence received here the Senatorial contest in Illinois possesses some features which make it very uncertain for any of the Republican candidates. The strength of the two regular parties is equal, there being ninety-nine Republicans and ninety-nine Democrats. The Independents number five, so that they control the balance of power. They have kept themselves aloof from any alliance with either of the other parties, and studiously refuse to commit themselves. So far as the regular Republicans are concerned, their first choice is Logan. The movement in favor of making General Grant Senator, though possessed of much strength and capable of success, was instituted entirely without his knowledge, and has been promptly disapproved. In the first place, he says that he desires a respite of a long season of public duty, most of which has been passed at the head of the armies of the United States or of the civil administration of the Government, and, therefore, he longs for the quiet and the arduous duties and grave responsibility and much anxiety. He says he is yet in the prime of his life and desires to enjoy the privileges of a sovereign instead of a servant of the Republic that he wishes to see something of the Old World, and has for this purpose planned an extended tour. In the second place, he wishes to see General Logan re-elected, as he was a good soldier and has been a useful citizen and public servant. General Logan appears to have no trouble in the Republican ranks, but is doubtful as to the purpose and predilections of the Independents. He feels sure of the Republican caucus nomination, which, however, is disputed by Ingersoll, Minister Washburne, Representative Richardson and several others. The Democratic candidates are ex-Governor Palmer, ex-Representative Farnsworth, a renegade Republican, and Representative Morrison. Dispatches received here say that the Independents favor Long John Wentworth.

General Meteorological Observations.

The Secretary of the Navy will issue, in a few days, orders to commanders of naval stations and commanding officers of vessels of war, directing that observations be taken and forwarded to the Bureau of Navigation in accordance with accompanying instructions, and for that purpose directing them to designate an officer in charge, who will be held responsible for the duty. The record thus kept will constitute part of the record of the system of international meteorological observations, to be taken simultaneously with other nations, and with the United States, which were parties to the plan of operations agreed upon by the Meteorological Congress in Vienna. The observations must begin on the day following the receipt of this order. The accompanying instructions will require that one meteorological observation be taken daily, suitable for the preparation of synoptic charts, to embrace, when practicable, at least the atmospheric pressure, temperature, wind, rain, reading of the wet bulb thermometer, sea swell and weather. This accession to the land stations of the international system will, it is expected, contribute a valuable series of records, and which will have an important bearing in solving the immutable but mysterious laws which govern the atmospheric currents, and particularly those tempestuous demonstrations which always result in suffering and loss of life and property. It is confidently believed that the information thus obtained and the deductions which will follow, will prove of incalculable benefit to commerce and agriculture. The observations will be taken simultaneously in the different parts of the globe at 7:35 A. M., Washington mean time. It may be interesting to observe that a recent report from the Signal Office shows the international system of observations to have made a most gratifying progress, embracing the following nations and provinces and number of stations: Algeria 10, Austria 13, Belgium 1, Great Britain 58, Denmark 6, France 48, Germany 23, Greece 1, Italy 33, Japan 1, the Netherlands 4, Norway 4, Portugal 4, Russia 27, Spain 2, Sweden 6, Switzerland 2, Turkey 5, Canada 28, United States 100. The observations of all these nations are interchanged.

A Fine From Japan.

The Navy Department has received, at the hands of Lieutenant Commander Dickson, sent by Admiral Reynolds, a beautiful Japanese national ensign, presented by the Japanese Navy to the department. The case containing the flag is marked 9th year of Meijii.

Mysterious Robbery in the Treasury Department.

Some three weeks since a package of $12,000 was shipped from the Treasury Department to the Illinois National Bank of Chicago. On its arrival at the bank it was found to contain only blank paper. The robbery is supposed to have been committed in the cash room of the Treasurer's office, where the packages are made up and sealed previous to their delivery to the express company. The robbery occasions consternation among the clerks in the cash room. The Treasury officials decline to talk on the subject, and there are no indications as to who are suspected. The secret service agents have charge of the matter, and are working diligently to discover the thief and the money.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 24, 1876.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE UNION PACIFIC.

The Government Directors of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, in their report for the year 1876, say: "The urgency with which conflicts relative to the construction of the Pacific Railroad legislation have arisen has brought the Government Directors to consider whether or not some adjustment of the whole case can be mutually agreed upon by the Government and company which shall put an end to all controversy between them, and settle definitely the manner and time of the Government's reimbursement." They say it is not practicable for the company to pay the first mortgage bonds and the $64,232,512 which would be due to the Government at the end of the thirty year term. It would, therefore, seem to be wise for the Government and the company to agree upon the establishment of a sinking fund, which shall reduce the total indebtedness of the company to the Government at the end of the term to say $25,000,000. This can be done without derangement of the company's affairs, and leave sufficient earnings to provide for reasonable dividends on the capital stock. It does not seem to be wise to reject this element in the case, as a property which returns an income on the capital which it represents, is always better cared for than that which does not. If Congress should authorize the making of such an arrangement as is here suggested, it is believed that the company will concur, and the result will be that the Government will have all its interest refunded during the term of thirty years, and have the principal of the debt reduced $2,236,512. This would leave the debt of the road at the maturity of the first and second mortgages about fifty-two millions, as the bridge bonds will have been either wholly paid or such balance of said bonds as may remain unpaid at the time and sinking fund bonds can be provided for by a mortgage on the lands as the land grant bonds will have been paid off by sales of lands. To provide for the $62,000,000 offset mortgage bonds and the balance due the Government, let a new mortgage beauthorized by Congress; let $25,000,000 of new first mortgage bonds placed with the Government as collateral securities, to be redeemed as fast as the company can sell them in market at not less than par and accrued interest, but not any one year less than ten per cent. of the amount, besides paying the coupon bond as it matures. There is no ground for reasonable doubt that a first mortgage long five per cent. bond to the amount of fifty-two millions would be an abundant and safe and popular security now, when the practicability and the certainty of the scheme for securing a return to the Government of every dollar which it has invested in the Union Pacific Railroad, in connection with the great advantages and saving to the Postoffice and War Department, the following from indirect benefits resulting from the construction of the road. It may be safely said that no equal outlay of money has ever produced as profitable return.

THE PRESIDENT NOT ALARMED.

President Grant, in the course of a conversation with a representative of the Associated Press to-day, said, in reply to a question, that he had no knowledge of a Democratic armed conspiracy South or West, as had been reported. He had information merely of organized rifle companies outside of the State militia, but he was not apprehensive of armed collisions in connection with the Presidency, no matter what might be the fears of other.

It seemed to him that the people desired only a fair count of the electoral votes of the Southern contested States, in order to be satisfied of the result. The reports of the several committees now there would shed light on the true condition of affairs, and have a tendency to solve the existing difficulties. He was confident that if the board proceeded fairly and honestly in the matter of the election, because such case his position as President would not command the requisite general support. The President remarked that no one could suppose that he had any connection with or relation to the declaration as to who was elected. That was entirely with the Electoral Committee. He was anxious for the coming of the 4th of March, when he would gladly give way to his successor, and, freed from official cares and efforts, be again made by some Democrats, on and off the committee, to induce him to withhold the Army and Navy Appropriation bills until the last.

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LOUISIANA.

Rumored Coalition Between Warmouth, Pinchback and the Democrats.

NEW ORLEANS, December 24.—Rumors are current here of a coalition between Warmouth, Pinchback and the Democrats, by which the Democrats in the Legislature are to elect them to the United States Senate, and they are in return therefor to assist the Democrats in installing Nicholls as Governor. Prominent Republicans deny it positively, and say that it would be impossible for either party to carry out the contract.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

A SMALLER CLASSICAL DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY, MYTHOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY. Abridged from the larger Dictionary, by William Smith, D.C.L., LL. D. With illustrations. Published by Harper & Brothers, New York. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

While this is an abridgement of Dr. William Smith's grand and voluminous dictionary, it is complete in itself, as everything essential has been retained, and only those names have been omitted that were not especially useful to the student. This work fully sustains the high character of "Harper's Student Series," and its price brings it within the ability of a larger number than the voluminous edition. The illustrations are numerous and fairly executed, and taking the book throughout it surpasses everything of the kind in the English language. We look for a large sale of this work, upon its merits as much as for any thing else.

IN THE LEVANT. By Charles Dudley Warner, author of "My Summer in a Garden," &c. Published by James R. Osgood & Co., Boston. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

Books of travel in the East are regarded by some as threadbare, because the ground has been traveled over and over again. This book, however, invests old sights and discriptions with fresh interest, and possesses two features which render it one of value. First, it is a survey of a field that may loom up to vast importance; and secondly, it is the product of a gifted author, who has already achieved a name high up in the scale of authorship. His pictures of Oriental scenes are graphic, but true to the facts. It is by no means a guide book record, but the result of study and sacrifice. The description embraces a visit to Jerusalem and its neighborhood, Bethlehem, Beyrant, Damascus, Cyrus, Rhodes, Constantinople, Athens, &c.

TROUBADORS AND TROUVERES, New and Old. By Harriet W. Preston. Published by Roberts Brothers, New York. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

A genuine work of literary excellence by one who obtained much celebrity for the translation of Mistral's Mercio. Since then Miss Preston has reproduced, with charming freshness, Provence poetry, and thereby added to her fame. The accounts of the troubadors of the middle ages, who lived in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, are traced with a master's hand in these criticisms. The book, however, gives seven separate essays, one on Mistral's Calendau; one on Theodore Aubenel, a modern Provençal poet new to most Americans; two on Jasmin, the Gascon barber-poet, whom we know better; two on "The Songs of the Troubadours," and a final one called "The Arthuriad," in which Tennyson's Idyls are treated as a consecutive epic, and in a very captivating manner.

A BOOK OF POEMS. By John W. Chadwick. Published by Roberts Brothers, Boston. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

This little volume, in form much like the classic style, is the product of a scholarly New Englander and graduate at Harvard. There is a degree of finish and unity about this volume of poems that makes it valuable and instructive. It comprises poems of nature, life and times and seasons. They are short, piquant and bristle with earnest words.

WEE BOYS. By One of Them. Published by Robert Brothers, Boston. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

This bright book for boys was written "by one of us for the amusement of pa's and ma's in general. Aunt Louisa in particular." It reproduces the doings of boys of the liveliest type, and not of the sickly kind. There is an easy don't-care style that gives relish to the story. The descriptions of school life are life-like, and so of other things, which will interest older readers as well.

FLORIDA.

Vote to be Recanvassed by the 27th Inst.

TALLAHASSEE, December 23.—The Supreme Court met at noon to-day. The counsel for the board withdrew the motion made yesterday, that he be allowed to answer. The court made the writ peremptory, and ordered the board to recanvass the vote by the 27th inst., and file a report of their action on that day, and then took a recess until four o'clock to make up its record.

New York Times Special.:

TALLAHASSEE, December 24.—The decision of the Supreme Court in the mandamus case was delivered at 5:30 o'clock on Friday last. It enforces the doctrine that all questions of irregularity or fraud in the election are judicial, belonging to the courts and not to the Board of State Canvassers, unless the returns are not regular or genuine. Thus, if the Inspectors at a poll stuff the box and change the result of the election, and they duly certified the result of their act and the county canvassers send up a return in due form, such returns are genuine for any purpose of the State Board. Hence the court orders the Manatee county returns to be counted, when the pretended election was conducted with no more regard to legal forms than the action of a street mob. Jackson county is ordered to be counted, where at every precinct the voters were compelled to pass their ballots up into windows seven feet from the ground, and where there is the clearest evidence that the Republican votes cast were not counted, but Democratic ballots were stuffed in in their stead. Monroe county is also ordered to be counted, when it is admitted by the precinct inspectors themselves that they adjourned on the night of the election to a place two miles distant, in order to wait the result at other precincts and ascertain how much was necessary for them to add to give a Democratic majority in the county. Hamilton county is ordered to be counted, where the inspectors, who were all Democrats and not Republicans, as has been asserted, deserted the polling places and let others, some of them candidates for the State Legislature, count the ballots and get up the certificate of the result. All these gross frauds and irregularities are ignored, and the counties are to be canvassed unpurged, because on their face the returns are regular and genuine. It is the opinion of the best lawyers here that there is neither law, justice or sense in the order of the court. They say that the statutes gives the board power to exclude fraud tainted precincts; this is its meaning or it means nothing. The decision is inconsistent with itself, in its various propositions, for it asserts the powers of the board to consider evidence outside the returns in one sentence, and denies it in another. It also denies the exercise of discretion on the part of the board, yet says that the statute of 1872 was passed to give the board more scope for the exercis of discretion. The order, however, is generally considered here as setting the proposition that a return fair on its face, signed by the proper offices at the proper time, must be counted, no matter what fraud is behind it. It is at best ambiguous and uncertain in any of its statements that the actual vote cast or asserted by it to be cast is in doubt, when the county affected by such returns must be excluded. The board cannot go back to precinct returns or anywhere else to correct it. So also if there be two or more returns from a county, the board must take the one regular on its face and reject all consideration of the latter. These principles, applied by the State Board, will give all the counties above named to the Democrats, will restore to the Democrats and Republicans respectively the single votes thrown out, and deduct all that were added. It will also compel the board to count returns from Baker county, signed by the county Judge, Sheriff and Justice of the Peace, which would give a net majority for Hayes in the State of 44 votes. The decision of the court and the mandate that follows it strictly apply to the Democratic counties in Second avenue, Twenty-third ward, Pittsburgh. Immediate possession given and ordered. Inquire of W. W. THOMSON, 140 Fifth avenue.

FOR RENT—HOUSE—A DWELLING OF 5 Rooms and Finished Attic, on Center avenue, Seventeenth ward. Water in house. Rent reasonable. Call on G. E. NORTH, Commercial Office, after 2:30 P. M., or address No. 154 Center avenue.

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—GRAIN AND PRODUCE BUSINESS—The undersigned wishing to relinquish their present business, an excellent opportunity is afforded to any parties desirous of engaging in the same line of trade. Made MOSES & SANFORD, 141 Water street. mwtf

FOR SALE—ENGINES AND BOILERS—New and second-hand, of all sizes, stationary and marine. Also, Pumps and Fittings for supplying boilers, of all sizes, the best and cheapest in the market. JAMES HILL & CO., Allegheny City, Pa.

FOR SALE—97 ACRES OF GOOD LAND—Well improved and cultivated, 3 miles from Beaver Falls, Beaver county, Pa.; cheap price and easy payments; will take approved New Castle or Beaver Falls property as part pay. Call on or address H. D. WITTICH, Beaver Falls, Pa.

FOR SALE—DRUG AND PRESCRIPTION STORE in one of the best localities in the city, doing a good business; can be bought at a reasonable price by any one meaning business; satisfactory reasons given for selling. Address, by addressing, in full name, "A. F." Lock Box 160, Pittsburgh, Pa.

FOR SALE—ONE 14 BY 24 IN. ENGINE, 8 by 24 in. boiler, 30 feet long, 36 flues 3 in. to 12 in., second-hand, and will be sold cheap; also, a lot of Pulleys, Hangers, Shafting and Belting. 10 second-hand Belts, 4 to 12 inches, of different sizes, at THOS. CARLIN'S, 1865 Sidney street, Allegheny, Pa.

FOR SALE—IRON PAINT—THE BEST AND cheapest paint in the market; is unequaled for painting cars, bridges, steamboat stacks and hulls, roofs, iron, brick and stone buildings, iron and tin work, &c., &c. Send for circular and price list. PITTSBURGH IRON PAINT COMPANY, 121 Liberty street.

FOR SALE—SHULTZ'S PATENT BELTING AND LACE LEATHER—Is superior to leather or Gum, and is below them in price. Does not stretch, crack, rot or slip. We will allow purchasers a reasonable time to test it, and if not satisfactory after such test we will take it back and refund the money paid. M. B. COCHRAN & CO., 121 Liberty street.

FOR SALE—

Private Residence in Philadelphia.

The magnific

The Commercial.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1876.

THE exports from Philadelphia to foreign ports, last week, were of an aggregate value of $812,660.

WE wish our patrons, one and all, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. No paper will be issued from this office tomorrow.

ESPECIAL precautions should be taken to prevent fires in churches, theaters and other public buildings during these Christmas holidays, when they are profusely decorated with combustible materials.

THE golden fleece. As the gold yield of Australia decreases, the wool crop grows more valuable. Last year the wool product of that country was $70,000,000, more than four times as much as its gold product.

CRONIN, according to current reports, is gifted with "a nose of gigantic proportions and the color of a dead-ripe strawberry." There are at least a thousand bottles of brandy concentrated in that nose, which blazes like a beacon light afar.

THE United States District Court of Virginia has just rendered a somewhat singular decision to the effect that money deposited in a savings bank, even under an agreement that it shall be a separate and special depo-it, is liable for the general debts of the bank.

ON TUESDAY night last, after a hot and protracted debate, the Board of School Controllers in Reading decided after the 22d inst. to abolish the colored schools, and admit the colored scholars to the schools in their wards. This action was taken upon a petition from a large number of colored citizens.

WE DO not believe there is anything in the telegrams sent out by the National Republican Committee during the campaign that every member of the committee is not entirely willing should be made public. But how about the dispatch said to have been sent by Tea-kettle HEWITT, ordering seven more mules?

THE Toledo *Blade* well says that the first white man hanged in the South for the murder of a colored one will do more to convince the North of the good faith of the Southerners in carrying out the letter and spirit of the constitutional amendments, than all the platf—— that could be ——

——ment of weakness in the Republican party that defers in a quasi way to Democratic vituperation against the leading representatives of republican principles and practice. It is time that this ceased. The crisis demands backbone. Let Republicans think firm, stand firm and act firm, and HAYES will be President.

OVER three hundred thousand dollars was realized from the recent sale of a private collection of paintings, etchings and engravings, in New York city. This speaks well for the love of art in this country when we consider the general depression of trade, and it is a subject for congratulation that so many splendid specimens of the fine arts are to be retained in the United States.

IN assuming the right to disclose the secrets of the telegraph office, the Democratic House undertakes to nullify the American revolution. "No taxation without representation" was not dearer to the revolutionary fathers than the principle of the inviolability of the mails. The modern telegraph occupies precisely the same relative position to the business and confidence of the people.

ACCORDING to the annual report of the Register of the Treasury, the registered tonnage of the country has increased during the past fiscal year nearly forty thousand tons, which shows that with the cost of shipbuilding at fifty-five dollars a ton there is business doing and trade going on and even increasing; a fact that should reassure the croakers who forebode greater disaster than our commerce has yet encountered.

THE New York *Public* compiles the figures of grain shipments for the season of 1876—that is, thirty-four weeks up to December 9th, when the season was practically over—and the showing is decidedly against New York. It is as follows:

	Corn.		All Grain.	
	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.
New York.....	22,244,317	15,550,077	74,248,906	76,307,047
Philadelp'a.	14,484,025	4,568,300	25,8?8,530	13,015,115
Boston.....	14,555,000	3,001,000	19,526,005	12,864,000
Baltimore....	2,500,000	2,000,000	3,000,000	2,500,000
Montreal.....	3,042,681	1,462,484	4,?00,?77	1,?00,?77
Portland.....	1,?00,?76	2,270,594	2,105,208	
Total.....	61,929,647	29,620,044	154,010,720	131,045,614

HEWITT says that his letters bore evidence of having been tampered with in the New York postoffice, but that he has destroyed the envelopes that bore the evidence. If he *had* such evidence, and then wilfully destroyed it, he should have had sense enough not to have made a charge which he had voluntarily rendered himself incapable of proving. It is beyond possibility of belief that a man possessed of such proof would be guilty of the folly of destroying it. The natural presumption, therefore, is that HEWITT lies.

SIR SYDNEY WATERLOW has gone back on our American paper makers. He recently told a meeting in the London Corn Exchange that the best specimens of paper which he saw at Philadelphia were not equal to many of the specimens he had seen from the Maidstone district in England.—*Springfield Republican.*

If this is true, how does it come about that the paper importation of this country has fallen from $355,511 to $18,880 since 1869, while the export has risen from $3,-777 to $810,364, a gross gain in our favor of $1,143,218, and that the general importations from Great Britain do not increase, while the exports thither augment in variety and in number?

FEW Democrats have the prescience to comprehend the party danger of their position in claiming the right to review the action of the returning boards of South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana. If they can go behind the returns in those States, the principle is established that the Republicans, with respect to Federal elections, may also review the action of the States of Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama, or of any Southern State, where statistics and history and common sense show that the Republican party has a fair majority upon an untrammelled vote. LAMAR, of Mississippi, who will soon be knocking for admission at the doors of the United States Senate, should be made to experience the logical consequences of this Bourbon blunder.

THE steadily increasing outlets for our dry goods fabrics give a brightening aspect to the outlook for the future. The export movement of cotton goods is no longer experimental, since it has been demonstrated that it can be carried on with advantage to all concerned. It perhaps looks a little like "carrying coal to Newcastle," to send prints and domestics to England, but if Newcastle will buy coal to remunerative prices, and we have coal to send, that settles the question, which is one of commercial importance. This increasing export trade constitutes an important item in the solution of the problem of renewed prosperity to the country. Given a market for our goods, and labor is employed to produce more, money is distributed, and the prostrated industries of the land are raised up again.

THE Milwaukee *Sentinel* is outspoken in its opposition to the Steamboat law, and its evident purpose to help the patentees of certain inventions. It says:

There is a bill pending in the Senate of the United States which proposes to require every steamer and sailing vessel navigating the ocean, or any lake, river, bay or sound, to be provided with a relief-valve and a spray-nozzle, patented by certain parties who are named in the act. We do not assume to know anything about the merits of these inventions, but it seems that a vigorous protest should go up from some source against this habit of taxing the merchant marine for the benefit of the patentees of every contrivance of this kind. The power of Congress over navigation has been abused to compel the owners of vessels to purchase all manner of appliances whenever a pretext can be found that they will promote the better security of life and property. Perhaps some of them are valuable to this end, and the relief valve and spray-nozzle may be of the number; but before Congress imposes a tax of $100 upon every vessel in the country, there ought to be a strong assurance that sufficient reason exists. We speak in no spirit of hostility to the patentees, who are Milwaukee parties, and in whose prosperity we should take great pleasure, but because there seems to be need of a remonstrance against the practice as a matter of justice to the shipping interest.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

The blessed anniversary of peace and charity—the brightest, cheeriest, most human and most universally observed of all holidays—is once more here. The festival of Christmas is the most tender and holy of all festivals in its origin, the most cosmopolitan in its sympathies, the most direct and moving in its appeals to the heart of humanity. Other holidays are comparatively local and circumscribed in their observance, but Christmas belongs to the whole world. Its influence in humanizing and christianizing the human race is simply inestimable. In the darkest ages of the world it has still shone out, a red letter day amid the gloom of the centuries, casting a light before and after it that was not born of earth. It is looked forward to, and has been for centuries, by young and old, high and low, rich and poor, as a day of happiness and cheer, of tender charities, of kindly thoughts, of elevating influences, of all-pervading and all-permeating joy. The little child learns to anticipate it before he can speak, the young look forward to it as the culminating point of the year, and the old hail it as a sweet reminder of the past and a mirror in which they see bright visions of departed joys. It has been well said that the heavens that opened above the plains of Bethlehem have never since been closed, although to man's sinful vision they often seem black with clouds. The voice that uttered those blessed promises of peace is still repeating the words of hope, although not always heard above the wail of sorrow or the din of caithly strife. They who watch and listen may hear as plainly as the shepherds the Message that broke the stillness of that midnight hour. The CHRIST is evermore born anew for all who need a Savior and will take Him to their hearts as LORD. Bethlehem with its lowly manger is near to every home to-day. ——— is a single ——— for celes- ——— love never wears ——— race as greets us at this returning season; and hence it is, of all others the time when human charity should have an excess, and active beneficence go beyond mere need; when the cake should be large, sugared and delicious; when the garment should be whole and warm; when empty bins and gaping boxes and hollow barrels should be filled to overflowing; when kind words should go with the kind deeds that are their proof, and all who are succored made to realize the unity of human nature and feel that their brotherhood is recognized by those they have envied. There are none so poor and lowly that they cannot make some heart glad, bring a smile to the face of childhood, and a sigh of gratitude from the distressed. Even if we have no money, no material or tangible gifts to bestow, we have that which is better, that which no riches can buy from us, and for which no money can pay. How vast a harvest a few kind words may yield. The *Methodist*, in its Christmas article, relates an exceedingly interesting story of an American lady who, while traveling in Europe, in 1871, visited, and became very much interested in, a small asylum in France for poor and deformed children, where a Protestant pastor and his wife took them in, reared them with the tenderness of real parents, and taught them trades, by means of which at a proper age they might earn their own living. Learning after the Franco-Prussian war that, in consequence of the poverty of the people on whose voluntary offerings this institution depended for its support, the asylum was about to be closed, and its needy, helpless inmates were accordingly to be turned adrift in the world, this good woman, having no money of her own to contribute, yet intent upon doing something on behalf of this deserving enterprise, out of the fullness of her heart wrote out for one of our magazines an account of her visit to this asylum, and of its present distress. This story, told with the simplicity and magnetism of real feeling, arrested the attention of a wealthy gentleman in New York, and the consequence was, that a few months later, about Christmas time, this good lady had the pleasure of learning that the institution in which she was so deeply interested had been suitably endowed, and placed above all want. Christmas will prove a very poor season if its charity lies only in turkeys, puddings and petty trifles sent with a card and the best wishes, or the so-called "compliments of the season." It is the love, and recognition of human brotherhood beneath, that gives all these things weight and value. Whether ours be a full or a lean pocketbook, therefore, it is our privilege to carry the spirit of Christmas not only into all our homes, but into our business walks as well, and not merely for the holidays, but for the whole three hundred and sixty-five days to come.

WE publish in another column an article from the New York *Public*, proposing an entirely new remedy for the Presidential complication, and give it more for the purpose of showing what ingenuity can invent than because of any particular merit in the plan proposed.

The first objection to it is that it concedes the right of either House to object to and throw out the vote of any State. We do not believe in the existence of any such right, and feel sure its concession will be fatal to any attempt at an amicable settlement. And the second objection is, that any scheme to prolong debate in the Senate over propositions to throw out votes until after the fourth of March, and then throw the election into the new House, would be revolutionary, and would be found utterly impracticable in execution. The purpose would be so plain as to provoke the very resistance it is sought to evade, and the attempt would end in disgrace to all parties concerned in it.

There is but one way to settle this question, and that is to adhere to the provisions of the Constitution literally and strictly. Any departure from the letter of that instrument will involve any party concerned in it in calamitous defeat.

IT is reported in the New York papers that Mr. ORTON will refuse to produce the copies of telegrams in his possession, and will insist that the rights of the public, as opposed to the pretensions of the House, should be settled by the courts. It is perfectly obvious, says the *Times*, that the control of a telegraph company over a message intrusted to its care ceases the moment the message has been delivered to the person to whom it has been addressed. The preservation of copies for a year or two is a mere matter of business convenience, and there is nothing to prevent, either now or at any future time, the wholesale destruction of all duplicates on the company's files. Mr. ORTON is probably quite well aware of the legal strength of his position, and, from intimations given out by his friends, we should judge that he is prepared to stand by it.

Big lake, in Irwin county, Georgia, began to run out about three months since at an opening in the bottom about the size of a flour barrrel, and up to a short while ago ran down from a mile wide and several long to the dimensions of a few acres, when the whole country, far and near, came to witness the sight and get fish. Everybody was supplied with all he could carry away of the finest sizes and qualities of the finny tribe. The basin now presents buffs sixty feet deep, and will probably refill in the course of a year or two.

The sporting corps of the Democratic army which is to inaugurate Tilden is now full. At last accounts, however, no application had been made for muskets and cartridges.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

It fa-ted on the crowing of the cock.
Some say that ever 'gainst that season comes
Wh rein our Savior's birth is celebrated.
Th full of dawning singeth all night long.
And then they say no spirit dares stir abroad;
Th nights are wholesome; then no planets strike,
No fairy takes; nor witch hath power to charm,
So hallowed and so gracious is the time.

The poor ye have always with you.

"With malice toward none, with charity for all."

"Know all men by these presents" that it is Christmas.

"The happiest time is now," says the old song. Now is Christmas.

"O tempora! O moreles!" as the man said when he read the *Post*.

The Christmas carol was first sung by the angels on the plains of Bethlehem.

Sponge your windows with alcohol and you won't have them crusted with ice.

Blessed is he that considereth the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.

"Christmas comes but once a year," and those are wise who make the most and best of it.

The Treasury will pay the January interest on United State bonds to-morrow, without rebate.

A Boston antiquarian has found the expression, "bully boy," in a poem written in the year 1600.

The Spitz dog is getting an increasing number of newspaper kicks. "Give a dog a bad name," etc.

He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack; but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

Christmas! No word in our language is so pregnant with meaning as this, or so rich in associations of ideas.

A committee of freight agents has been raised at Chicago to see if a better classification of freights cannot be devised.

Have you any Christmas evergreens? They are emblems of unfading love, fresh thanksgiving and constant forgiveness.

And now another name has been added to the noble army of ineligibles. This time he is a Democratic elector from Virginia.

Christmas, the era of "*good will to men*," comes most opportunely after the warmth and bitterness of the Presidential contest.

The slate business of the Lehigh Valley is better now than ever before, the export to foreign countries being largely on the increase.

Of the $15,000,000 Alabama fund, $8,-000,000 is left after all private claims are paid. The insurance question now comes up again.

It will be a cold heart indeed that Christmas fails to warm into life or to prompt to deeds of love toward the poor and afflicted.

The general prevalence of diphtheria is said to be due in a great degree to the gas which is thrown off from coal stoves in ill ventilated rooms.

Now is the rythmic season of the year when the editor's heart is made heavy by the receipt of Christmas carols too numerous to mention.

The Permanent Philadelphia Exhibition has had presented to it the Brazilian inclosure, which attracted such attention during the Centennial.

"Merry Christmas" will not be seen in hundreds of households unless the wants of the poor are borne in mind by those who are able to extend relief.

Antelopes, as well as buffaloes, are being rapidly exterminated on the plains of Western Kansas and Eastern Colorado by systematic hunting for the market.

The meats resulting from the tremendous onslaught now being made by Chicago packers are being carried away in a steady stream of 125 to 150 loaded rail-cars each day.

Before the commencement of "the season" the average Floridian is in a condition of grasping impecuniosity that will stop at no deception, however paltry. The smallest change in the interior of the State is a yearling bull.

"The greatest of these is charity." The Brooklyn relief fund has been increased by the sum of $21,500 through the personal contributions of prominent actors and volunteer performances given by the various theatrical companies of the country.

The Atlantic during the past few days has been visited by the severest gales since last September. These gales have been almost universally prevalent on the routes between Europe and the United States, and all arriving vessels report severe weather and serious damage.

There have been very grand celebrations in other creeds and other civilizations than ours, but none other has created one so soft and so strong, so compact and so diffused, so warm and tender in its whole constitution, nor one that lived so vigorously and grew so rapidly under all conditions as Christmas, which presses on all sides of humanity.

PERSONAL.

The Mexican States of Jalisco, Sonora and Lower California, among the strongest and wealthiest in Mexico, declare for Lerdo, the President now a prisoner.

Cronin, the bogus Oregon elector, is politely described by a Washington correspondent as "a muscular type of the refined Celt," which, being translated, means that he is a genteel specimen of a Tipperary blackguard.

Alexander Mitchell, the railway king of Wisconsin, is building a magnificent bank building and safe depository in Milwaukee, and in the construction of his money vaults has hit upon a novel idea. He has made the floor, walls and top of two thicknesses of railroad rails, and has surrounded this seemingly impregnable barrier against thieves with a very thick wall of stone.

Advices from Chihuahua, Mexico, state that Messrs. Degeton, Miller, Mollevan-Herne and Fisher, prominent foreigners residing in that city, while recently out in the mountains near by endeavoring to locate a gold mine, were all kidnaped by Mexican banditti, and will be held until ransomed. Degeton is German Consul at Chihuahua, and Miller was a former resident of St. Louis.

Dr. Peterman, the German geographer, has written a letter to Dr. Hayes, saying that justice is now only being done the latter for his achievements in the Arctic regions, north of Smith's sound, fifteen years ago. He hopes that America will soon send another expedition to the pole, and believes that with favorable conditions and the exhibition of the usual American pluck, the flag of this nation may yet be planted at the very spot.

It is desirable that all the historic material of this centennial year be deposited in the Pennsylvania State Library. Pastors who have preached centennial sermons, orators who have delivered addresses, and local or county historians, are earnestly and respectfully requested to send a copy of each to O. H. Miller, State Librarian, Harrisburg, Pa. He will see that due acknowledgment be made, and that a suitable place be assigned for their preservation, so that they may be made available for future reference. It is also desirable to have a specimen centennial copy of every newspaper, periodical and magazine published in the State.

In Norway and Sweden even the birds have their share of the Christmas joy. As soon as the church bells have "rung in the feast" at five o'clock in the afternoon of Christmas eve, the father of the house takes his richest sheaf of oats or barley and attaches it to the end of a pole, which is nailed to the gable of the barns or the storehouses. The mother and the children stand by enjoying the sight of the happy birds fluttering around the sheaf, while the father will perhaps quote the passage about God's care even for the sparrow, wherefore it is right that the sparrow, too, should rejoice on the day when Christ was born.

During Sothern's recent engagement in New Orleans a successful attempt was made to "sell" the man who has perpetrated so many practical jokes on others. A mock quarrel was arranged between two actors, one of whom was a particular friend of Sothern, and a challenge followed. The actors played their parts admirably, and Sothern was induced to leave his bed at six o'clock on a cold morning and ride four miles to the scene of conflict. There the antagonists snapped their pistols twice at one another, when Sothern, greatly excited, exclaimed: "Are they not going to end it with one fire? Why, in every other country that would suffice. What kind of a blasted country is this, where you have to fight all day?" The parties then separated, but it was some time before Sothern learned that he was the subject of a joke.

THE PRESIDENTIAL QUESTION.

How to Settle the Question.

[From the New York Public, December.]

There is one phase of the political situation which has been strangely overlooked. The Democratic objections are likely to secure the election of Mr. Hayes without counting any of the votes from the disputed States. For that purpose nothing is necessary except a few days of delay. The Constitution reyuires that Congress shall be in session on the second Wednesday in February and "the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates" But there is no provision that the opening and counting shall be completed on that day, nor are there any rules or customs whatever by which the time occupied in discussing or investigating the validity of any certificate is limited. The Senate has no previous question. The President, who opens the certificates, can move no faster than that body permits. If it is compelled to discuss one or more days, upon any point raised, the House can do nothing but await the result. The Democrats propose to object to the counting of certain electoral votes, and if their claim to go behind the returns is conceded, the whole question as to the validity and rightful result of the election is thereby thrown open for investigation and discussion.

On the 14th of February, then, the two Houses meet. Let us suppose that the Senate calmly assents to every Democratic demand, agrees that, in case of any objection, the two Houses should separate and vote, and that no electoral vote should be counted if either House objects. The opening of the certificates begins; presently Florida is reached, and a Democratic member objects, and the two Houses separate. The Senate is not limited in debate by any existing rule, and it should discuss the Florida question thoroughly it at all, reviewing the great volume of evidence collected by the committees, and hearing much of it read for information. Weeks were spent in discussing the Louisiana case, when nothing but the right of Pinchback to a seat was at stake. Would it be strange if Senators should insist upon as full a discussion, with the Presidency pending? The discussion is adjourned from day to day. The remainder of the certificates cannot be opened until the Florida case has been settled; the House has absolutely no power to do anything until the opening of all the certificates has disclosed the fact that no President has been elected by the people. If the Senate is not ready to vote, the joint convention cannot be reassembled, and the rest of the certificates cannot be opened, and the House can only wait. If that body insists that each House has the right to inquire into the validity of returns, it must expect the Senate to inquire to its own satisfaction. The House has neither the power nor the right to demand that the Senate should decide otherwise than in accordance with its own rules, which permit full discussion.

Two weeks and three days pass—less time than has been occupied in deciding less important matters. What then? On the 4th of March at noon the present House ceases to exist. The Senate, being a permanent body, merely swears in new members; the only House of Representatives in existence then will be the new one recently chosen. This body, no doubt, the President will have called to meet in extra session; it assembles and organizes on Monday, March 5th. As soon as it has organized, the Senate notifies it that the adjourned session of the joint convention will now be held. The two bodies meet; the House objects to the vote of Louisiana, Florida and South Carolina, and the Senate to the vote of Oregon, and neither is counted. Thereupon Mr. Tilden has 184 votes and there is not "a majority of all the electors appointed" for either candidate. The Constitution requires the House to proceed immediately to elect a President, voting by States, each State casting one vote. The House obeys, and thereupon California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont and Wisconsin, twenty States, from each of which a majority of Republicans have been elected to the next House, vote for HAYES. New Jersey, New Hampshire, which will elect members in March, will doubtless vote the same way, if the vote is delayed. There is no room for dispute as to the validity of election of the members composing the majority in either of those twenty delegations. Two others, Florida and Louisiana, would vote for Hayes as now constituted. But even if their votes should be changed by unseating members, Mr. Tilden could only secure the votes of eighteen States. Mr. Hayes would be elected in strict conformity with the Constitution and without counting any electoral votes from disputed States.

Even upon the most extreme Democratic theory, therefore, the election of Mr. Tilden becomes absolutely impossible, if the Senate exercises its indisputable right to discuss the questions at issue before deciding them. There is no possibility that a majority of the Senators will consider the McEnery certificate the legal vote of Louisiana, or the Grover certificate the legal vote of Oregon, but the demand of the House that both States shall be thrown out entirely, if granted by the Senate, only throws the election into the House. But what House? The Constitution does not give that or any other power to the present House after noon of March 4th; that body will then be dead, and the only House in existence, if the counting of the votes be not completed until after that hour, will be the House newly elected. If, therefore, certain Senators think it their duty to occupy fifteen days in discussion, the new House, with twenty-one Republican States, will proceed to elect a President.

It is important that business men, who are anxious lest there may arise some conflict of authority, should realize how impossible such a conflict is. There is no room for it; not the ghost of a shadow of constitutional authority can be found for setting up a Presidential pretender until all the certificates have been opened. If a majority of Senators consent to throw out the vote of Louisiana before March 4, so that the election may go into the present House, Mr. Tilden may be chosen. But if they merely discuss the matter fifteen days, they send the election to the new House. We may rest assured that there will be a peaceful and constitutional settlement. In one way or the other, and that, whether the result becomes known on the 14th of February or the 5th of March, the country will so firmly sustain the constitutional decision that agitators will find their occupation gone.

THE most remarkable meteor observed in recent years passed over Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and Indiana on Friday night at 8:30, going northeastward. At Bloomington the aerolite presented a disk three times the apparent size of the full moon. At all places reported from, the rear caused by the passage of this great mass of matter through the dense atmosphere of the earth was alarmingly audible, and the tremendous friction to which the surface parts were subjected caused continuous superficial disintegration, with accompanying explosions, filling the air with multifarious points of light tinged with every hue, and presenting a very beautiful phenomenon. At Mendota and Garrett, in Illinois, the inhabitants were mystified by a sudden illumination of the atmosphere, accompanied, in the latter place, by a detonation louder and sharper than an ordinary cannon. In neither of these places was the meteor visible, which would show (as their zenith was the most highly illuminated) that the stranger's altitude was still above the prevailing clouds, and its momentum sufficient to carry it across the continent, although, suffering a constant deterioration in size, it reached far less attention from the denizens of the Eastern States.

Brattleboro, Vermont, people tell this for a fact: A young widower in Windham county, not far from Brattleboro, who was greatly in need of a housekeeper, rode, day after day, in a vain search for a hired girl. At last, almost discouraged, he drew up at a small dwelling among the hills. "Can you tell me where I can get a woman to do the work in a farm house?" "Where are you from?" asked the old man, viewing the handsome horse and buggy with a critical air. "My name is ——— and I am from ———." "Oh, ya'as, I've hearn of ye; ye lost yer wife a spell ago. Well, I've got six gals—good gals, too—and yer may take yer pick among 'em for a wife; they wouldn't none on 'em think of going out for work. Should as fall as lives you should take Hannah, because she's the oldest, and her chance ain't quite so good, seeing as she's near-sighted and can't hear so very well. But, if ye don't want her, ye can take yer pick o' t'others." The widower went in, selected the best looking one, drove to the justice's, was married and carried home, that night, a permanent housekeeper, who proves, so far, to be in every way satisfactory.

The huge guns made and to be made for modern warfare continue growing in size. The English "80-ton" gun and the Italian "100-ton" are now to be eclipsed by a gun weighing 150 tons, which is projected at Woolwich. This monster will be thirty-five feet long and have a bore of twenty inches. Six hundred pounds of powder will be required at each discharge, and the shot it is expected to send for an indefinite distance will weigh a ton and a half.

S. M. Pettengill & Co.,
Advertising Agents,
37 Park Row, New York,
Desire to Call the Attention of Business Men, who wish to reach the Reading Public, to the following
FACTS:
1. They have been in the Advertising business for nearly thirty years, and given it constant attention and study during that time.
2. They have had, and continue to have, cordial business relations with all the newspapers and other periodicals in the United States and Canada.
3. Their record with all these publications is one of fair treatment, honorable dealing and prompt settlements.
4. In consequence of this, they can always have advertisements inserted at the publisher's *lowest rates*.
5. They are so acquainted with the entire press of the country that they can select the *best mediums* for any given purpose.
6. Having done advertising for all kinds of business, and noted the results to their customers, they suggive valuable suggestions as to the *size, style and position* which will make the most effective advertisement for the object to be attained.
7. Having frequent orders for a large number of papers, they can, in most cases, get the work done for *less cost* than the advertiser would have to pay if he sent the order direct.
8. They examine all papers, note all omissions or irregularities, secure the strict fulfillment of every stipulation of the order, and submit full files for the inspection of the advertiser.
9. They give the advertiser the full benefit of the facilities and of their supervision *without charge*, a commissions being paid by the publishers.
10. They submit estimates for any given list of papers, or for properly covering any given district.
11. For a systematic working up of any large enterprise, they assist in the preparation of circulars, pamphlets and general reading matter, in addition to newspaper advertising.
They invite a call from any parties who contemplate advertising in any way or for any amount.
S. M. PETTENGILL & CO.,
37 Park Row, New York.
701 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
Centennial Grounds, Philadelphia.
10 State Street, Boston.

E. F. Kunkel's Bitter Wine of Iron.
This truly valuable tonic has been so thoroughly tested by all classes of the community that it is now deemed indispensable as a Tonic medicine. It roots out little, purifies the blood and gives tone to the stomach, promotes the system and prolongs life. Everybody should have it. For the cure of Weak Stomach, General Debility, Malfunction, Diseases of the Stomach, and for all cases requiring a tonic. This wine is acknowledged to be the most efficient salt of Iron we possess—Citrate of Magnetic Oxide, combined with the most energetic of vegetable tonics—Yellow Peruvian Bark.
Do you want something to strengthen you?
Do you wants a good appetite?
Do you want to get rid of nervousness?
Do you want energy?
Do you want to sleep well?
Do you want to build up your constitution?
Do you want to feel well?
Do you wants a brisk and vigorous feeling?
If you do, TRY KUNKEL'S BITTER WINE OF IRON.
I only ask a trial of this valuable tonic.
Beware of counterfeits, as Kunkel's Bitter Wine of Iron is the only sure and effectual remedy in the known world for the permanent cure of Dyspepsia and Debility, and as there are a number of imitations offered to the public, I would caution the community to purchase none but the genuine article, manufactured by E. F. Kunkel, and having his stamp on the cork of every bottle. The very fact that others are attempting to imitate this valuable remedy, proves its worth and speaks volumes in its favor. Sold only in $1 bottles. Sold by druggists and dealers everywhere.
Tape Worm Removed Alive,
Head and all complete, in two hours. No fee till head passes. Seat, Pin and Stomach Worms removed by Dr. Kunkel, 259 North Ninth street, Philadelphia, Pa. Send for circular. For removing all ordinary worms, call on your druggist and get a bottle of KUNKEL'S WORM SYRUP. Price, $1. MWF
NATIONAL INSURANCE CO.,
43 South Diamond St., Allegheny City.
W. W. MARTIN.....President.
JAM TEVENSON.....Secreta y
Pittsburgh Bank for Savings,
No. 61 Fourth Ave., Pittsburgh.
CHARTERED IN 1862.
BOARD OF MANAGERS.—George A. Berry, President; John Scott, Jas. Park, Jr., Vice Presidents; A. Bradley, J. L. Graham, A. S. Bell, Wm. K. Nimick, John S. Dilworth, F. Rahm, G. Follansbee, Robert C. Schmertz.
CHAS. G. MILNOR, Secretary and Treasurer.
SOLICITOR—John H. Bailey.
DRY GOODS.
1876, 1877,
Holiday Goods!
AT
James Caldwell & Co.'s,
No. 115 and 117
FEDERAL ST.,
ALLEGHENY.
Attractive Display
AND
Lowest Prices!
NEW
Dress Goods,
Dress Silks,
Muffs and Boas,
Seal Sacques,
Cloth Sacques,
Cloaking Cloths,
Shawls, Skirts, &c.,
Houskeeping Goods.
Will Open on
Monday, Dec. 18th,
NEW SELECTIONS OF
Handkerchiefs,
Ladies' Neck Wear,
Gloves, &c, &c.,
And Many Other Articles Suitable
FOR
CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR'S
Presents!
DISSOLUTION.
Notice is hereby given that the firm of MILLER & CO., doing business at 119 Wood street, is this day, December 19, 1876, dissolved. All debts due to and by said partnership will be settled at 119 Wood street. H. W. MILLER, B. F. MILLER.
December 21, 1876.
THE PARTNERSHIP HERETOFORE EXisting under the firm name of BECKERT & GERWIG is this day dissolved by limination, C. W. GERWIG retiring. The business will be continued by C. BECKERT, who will pay all debts and collect all accounts.
November 25, 1876.
TARRANT'S SELTZER APERIENT
"WHAT WILL
Tarrant's Seltzer Aperient
CURE?" asks the sufferer from a multitude of diseases. We answer: It will remove from the system the active cause of most of the diseases that flesh is heir to. It won't mend a broken limb, nor close a bulick hole; but it may be profitably used in stomachic diseases. It will do no one any harm and may do much good. Try it, and see if it won't suit your case.
TTHS SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS.
Insure with the Ætna of Hartford
53 FOURTH AVENUE
ASSETS JAN. 1875 $6,497,275.94
S.S. CARRIER, Agent.
PATENTS.
Persons desiring to procure Patents, or wishing to obtain information from the U. S. Patent Office, are advised to consult F. A. LILLEMAN, of Washington, D. C., corner of Seventh and G streets, or 50 Fifth avenue, Pittsburgh
Send for circular

DRY GOODS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER
NEW CHRISTMAS GOODS!!
AT
WILLIAM SEMPLE'S,
Nos. 165, 167 and 169 Federal Street, Allegheny, Pa.,
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:
From present indications our patrons on Saturday of this week, and that over-crowding may in a manner be lessened Thursday and Friday evening Saturday evening, until nine o'clock.
Goods for the Holidays.
A most suitable gift for a Christmas present, and which our stock offers unsurpassed attractions, would be Dress Pattern of any material.
DRESS SILKS.
Our Silk Department is as it has been during the season, full, fresh and complete, and at prices lower now here in the United States.
At $5, 90 and 95c, good heavy Black Dress Silks.
At $1 and $1 25, extra heavy Gros-grain Black Silks.
At $1 37½, very superior Gros-grain Black Silks.
At $1 50 to $4 50, special good value in Gros-grain and "Hand spun" Black Dress Silks.
At $1, Seal and assorted Brown Dress Silks.
At $1 25 to $2 50, extra value in choicest shades Colored Silks, much under value.
While our lines of Mourning and Fancy Dress Silks, including Brocade silks, is specially attractive in variety and prices.
At 25 to 50c, extra good Black and Colored Cashmeres.
At 60 and 62½c, extra bargain in Colored Merino.
At 65c to $1, superior value in Black and Colored Cashmeres.
Having made large and most advantageous purchase of these goods, the value offered cannot be excelled.
At 10 and 12½c, choice seasonable Dress Goods.
At 12½c, Knickerbocker Suitings worth 25c.
At 18½c, all Wool Striped Overcoatings.
At 18½ to 25c, Fine Colored Cashmeres.
At 20c, newest shades in Basket Cloth Goods.
At 25c to $2 50, beautiful line of latest effects in Dress Goods of all textures and in all shades, suitable for promenade and interior wear, at the lowest prices.
At 12½ and 15c, best makes and styles Tycoon Reps.
Full and very complete stock of Medium and Deep Mourning Goods.
AT LOWE-T PRICES.
FURNISHING GOODS, &C.
HolidayGoods
AT
JOSEPH HORNE & CO.
Invite especial attention to the following lines of goods, all of which are being offered at
Bargain Prices!!
LADIES' CLOTH CLOAKS, all the newest materials.
SEAL SKIN SACQUES.
MUFFS, BOAS and HATS
SILK FUR LINED CIRCULARS.
BLACK DRESS SILKS.
Dark Colored Dress Silks.
Light Party Silks.
Ladies' Silk Ties and Bows
Lace Scarfs, Barbes, Collars and Handkerchiefs.
Linen Handkerchiefs, Plain White, Colored and Mourning Borders in great variety.
Silk Handkerchiefs from 25c up.
Fancy Handkerchief and Glove Boxes,
Fine Hair Brushes and Combs, Russia Leather Portmonais, Cigar Cases, Companions, &c.
Ladies' Kid Gloves, 1 to 10 Buttons.
Misses' Kid Gloves.
Ladies and Misses' Gloves and Mittens.
Men's Cloth and Leather Gloves.
Fur Gauntlets.
Men's Furnishing Goods.
Dressing Gowns and Smoking Jackets.
Linen Handkerchiefs, Silk Handkerchiefs, Silk Mufflers, Cashmere Mufflers, from 25c up.
Neck Dressing, latest novelties.
Linen Collars and Cuffs.
Underwear in all grades.
Open every evening during the week previous to Christmas until 5:30 o'clock.
Retail Store,
197 & 199 Penn Avenue.
HOTELS.
IMPERIAL HOTEL,
The Only First-class Three-Dollar-per-Day Hotel in Washington.
The order to meet the wants of the Traveling Public, this first-class Hotel has reduced its price from Four to Three Dollars per day. The above Hotel is pleasantly situated, near Fourteenth street, fronting on Pennsylvania ave. Is convenient to the Treasury, Patent Office, Post Office and Capitol Buildings.
N. B.—Take the Pennsylvania Avenue Horse Cars, and tell the Conductor to let you off at the Imperial Hotel.
JAMES S. PEIRCE, Proprietor.
FIFTH AVENUE HOTEL,
(FORMERLY HARE'S HOTEL,)
No. 152 Liberty Street, Foot of Fifth Avenue.
TERMS $2 PER DAY.
HUGH KEYS, Proprietor.
JAMES ANGLIM,
PUBLISHER OF
LANMAN'S
Biographical Anna's
AND DEALER IN
RARE, OLD & CURIOUS BOOKS
F Street, near the Treasury,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
Books bought in large or small quantities.
Law Books. Early American History, Valuable Government Publications, and Standard Works on all subjects, receive special attention.
Prize MEDAL Awarded.
Filled with Key West Cuttings.
PRIDE OF THE NORTH
THE LEADING FIVE CENT CIGAR.
GUMPERT BROS.,
CIGAR MANUFACTURERS,
1341 CHESTNUT ST., PHILADELPHIA.
MWS
R. H. PALMER & CO.,
"LIMITED,"
SUCCESSORS TO R. H. PALMER,
WILL CONTINUE THE
Hat, Cap and Fur Business
AT
No. 151 Wood Street,
AND THE
STRAW, MILLINERY,
AND FANCY GOODS BUSINESS
AT
No. 105 Market Street.
WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY
WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY.
10,000 *Words and Meanings not in other Dictionaries.*
3,000 Engravings; 1,840 Pages Quarto.
Price $12
FOUR PAGES COLORED PLATES.
"THE BEST PRACTICAL ENGLISH DICTIONARY EXTANT."—*London Quarterly Review, October, 1873.*
The sales of Webster's Dictionaries throughout the country in 1872 were 20 times as large as the sales of any other Dictionaries.
One family of children having WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED, and using it freely, and another not having it, the first will become much the most intelligent men and women. Ask your teacher or minister if it is not so, then buy the book and use, and make it use freely. For sale by all booksellers.
Published by
G. & C. MERRIAM, Springfield, Mass.
DRY GOODS.
DAY, DECEMBER
NEW CHRISTMAS GOODS!
AT
WILLIAM SEMPLE'S,
167 and 169 Federal Street, Allegheny, Pa.,
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:
From present indications it will be an utter impossibility, even with our increased facilities, to meet the demands of our patrons on Saturday of this week, and that over-crowding may in a manner be lessened Thursday and Friday evening, until nine o'clock.
Suitable Presents!!!
A most substantial gift for a Christmas present

FINANCE AND TRADE.

SATURDAY EVENING, December 23, 1876.

There was some increase in the activity of routine business at bank counters to-day, the transactions of three days being condensed into one. This did not change the general character of the financial situation, however, the usual features of quiet and ease being still predominant. Bankers are pursuing a rather cautious and conservative policy at present, but are ready to meet the requirements of all first class borrowers. There are some indications of a moderately good demand for loans during the ensuing month, but not in such volume as to produce any perceptible stiffening of the money market. Rates of discount are unchanged at 7@9 per cent. on prime commercial paper and 6@7 per cent. on first-class collaterals. The bank clearings for the past week were somewhat decreased from those for the previous week, but were up to the average for the season. Our totals given below of the clearings for the year to date are corrected by the official figures. The following is the report of operations of the Pittsburg Clearing House for the week ending to-day:

	Exchanges.	Balances.
December 18	$ 957,550 69	$207,774 71
Dec., her 19	1,311,700 57	239,967 90
December 20	695,382 84	103,489 28
December 21	611,096 48	127,781 13
December 22	1,007,482 35	167,867 44
December 23	617,608 64	125,506 23
Total	$4,273,511 94	$969,385 26
Week ending Dec. 16	4,605,741 21	921,302 79
Week ending Dec. 9	4,726,393 26	1,005,678
Week ending Dec. 4	4,026,684 27	889,904 21
Week ending Nov. 25	4,364,178 77	953,686
Week ending Nov. 18	4,198,826 11	682,517 18
Total 1876 to date	221,558,413 55	43,802,509 72
Total 1875 to date	243,470,331 71	44,485,211

—The New York *Tribune* makes a hard hit at the chief evil of the railway system when it says the New York Central as an example in the following extract from its money articles concerning upon the railway treaty:

Slowly but surely the mercantile mind of New York is awakening to the fact that its commerce is being taxed out of existence for no better purpose than to pay dividends on millions of fictitious railroad capital. Already merchants and forwarders are seeking ship railroad freights are advanced, when the recent report of the Central and Hudson shows that at the rates current during the past year it was able to earn and pay eight per cent. dividends on $90,000,000 of capital, fully one-half of which never had any existence beyond the face of sheets of paper representing the stock. The answer is easy! The dividends paid were not fairly earned, but by a postponement of necessary repairs, and the neglect to contribute to a fund from which future necessarily large expenses may be met, together with the new pas of some $800,000 from that still mysterious "miscellaneous," the dividends have been squeezed out, which in turn renders of private interest rather than law, the value or the aspirations of the company soon following after Illinois Central, which has reduced its semi-annual dividend from 5 to 2 per cent. But for so long can the manufacturing and commercial interest of the State and city of New York stand the tax, in the shape of transportation charges, necessary to pay 8 per cent. on nearly $50,000,000 of unreal or fictitious capital? Herein lies the secret of one of the most interesting rates, it seems probable that the hollow peace which was patched up (as some say from a stock-jobbing operation) is likely to be of short duration, and that a private letter from Philadelphia that the Pennsylvania Railroad has since made a contract with one of Philadelphia's largest firms to deliver grain at Philadelphia from Chicago, instead of the compact rate of 27 cents to Philadelphia. It is proper to remark, from the nature of the firm's business, that a large proportion of its receipts will find their way on board a foreign vessel. We also hear—but not so well authenticated—that rates have been made many cents below the schedule on westbound freights from this city.

—The New York bank statement shows a decrease in the total reserve of $272,900, the loss in legal tender notes having that much exceeded the gain in specie. The deposit average to make the statement balance should have fallen $1,400,000; the actual decrease was $1,673,900. The surplus reserve is $11,664,625 or $184,450 less than last week.

The following is a comparison of the bank average for the past two weeks:

	Dec. 16.	Dec. 23.	Differences.
Loans	$254,147,200	$252,884,100	Dec. $1,263,200
Specie	28,947,200	27,680,800	Inc. 712,600
Legal tender	31,311,700	29,638,700	Dec. 1,673,000
Deposits	205,324,200	206,170,700	Dec. 845,500
Circulation	19,153,100	19,153,100	Dec. 19,100
Total reserve	60,259,400	63,246,700	Dec. 272,900
Res. required	51,331,425	51,542,675	Dec. 211,250
Excess	8,927,975	11,703,925	Inc. 184,450

—Under the name of the American Mining and Stock Exchange of New York, it has been resolved that on and after January 2, 1877, "there shall be a regular call of railway shares and miscellaneous securities, on which the rate of commission has been fixed at one twentieth of one per cent." The *Herald* says: "In view of the fact that the Mining Board, as projected, was intended to deal only with mining properties, and that the leading members of the young gentlemen who constitute the majority of its membership it is proposed to antagonize to the New York Stock Exchange with its millions of capital, its credit, the experiment suggested by the announcement will be watched with a great deal of interest."

—The annual product of the mines of the State of Colorado is given by the Governor at $8,000,000, and he predicts that, with the coverage of the Denver District, in Southwestern Colorado, next year's product will reach $10,000,000.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the Fifth National Bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

	10:30	11:30	12:30	1:30	2:30	3:00
December 23, 1876.	M.	M.	M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.
Gold	107¼	107¼	107¼	107⅜	107⅜	107⅜
U. S. 6's, 1881, c. cp.	117½	117⅝	....	....	....	....
U. S. 6's, 1881, reg.	117½	117⅝	....	....	....	....
5-20's, 1865, new	113¾	113¾	....	....	....	....
5-20's, 1867, registered	114¼	114¼	....	....	....	....
5-20's, 1867, coupon	114¼	114¼	....	....	....	....
5-20's, 1868, registered	113½	113½	....	....	....	....
5-20's, 1868, coupon	113½	113½	....	....	....	....
10-40's, registered	110½	110½	....	....	....	....
10-40's, coupons	110½	110½	....	....	....	....
Currency 6's	121	121	....	....	....	....
New 5 per cents	112	112	....	....	....	....
Western Union Tel.	71¾	71¾	71¾	71¾	71¾	71¾
Pacific Mail	34	34	....	....	....	....
Wells-Fargo Express	....	....	....	....	....	....
American Express	88	88	....	....	....	....
New York Central	102¼	102¼	....	....	....	102¼
Erie	33	33	....	....	....	33
Erie pref.	66¼	66¼	....	....	....	66¼
Michigan Central	90¾	90¾	....	....	....	90¾
Illinois Central	96	96	....	....	....	96
Chicago & Northwest	37¾	37¾	....	....	....	37¾
Do. preferred	....	....	....	....	....	....
Rock Island	101¾	101¾	102⅜	....	....	102
St. Paul common	....	....	....	....	....	19¾
Do. preferred	34¾	34¾	....	....	....	34¾
Wabash comm'n	....	....	....	....	....	8½
Union and Mississippi	....	....	....	....	....	....
Union Pacific	....	....	....	....	....	....
New Jersey central	36¾	36¾	....	....	37	37
Hannibal & St. Joe.	....	....	....	....	....	13½
C. C. & I. C.	....	....	....	....	....	....
Missouri Pacific	....	....	....	....	....	....
Del., Lack. & West'n	74¾	74¾	....	....	....	74¾
South Carolinas, 6's	....	....	....	....	....	....
South Carolinas, 7's	....	....	....	....	....	....
Mo. cent. 6's	107½	....	....	....	....	....

—The following is the report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board as received by wire at noon to-day:

Stocks.	Bid.	Asked.	Sales.
Pennsylvania Central	....	....	47¾
Reading	....	....	19¾
United Co's. of N. J.	136½	....	....
Pgh, Titusv & Buffalo	....	....	....
Lehigh Valley	49	....	....
Allegheny Valley 7's	104¾	....	....
Central Transportation	40	....	....
Empire Transportation	....	50	....
N. C. & St. L. in bonds	....	84	....

[By Associated Press.]
Gold Closed at 107¼.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, December 23.—Money 5@6 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 5@7 per cent. Customs receipts $170,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $400,000. Clearings $28,000,000. Sterling exchange quiet at 482½@484¼.

GOLD.

Gold opened at 107¾ and closed at 107¼; all sales of the day having been at these figures. Carrying rates 4¼, 4 and 7 per cent Silver bars 121¾ bid; coin 121¼@121¾.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government bonds dull but strong and in good demand. State bonds quiet and nominal. Sunday being a dies non Saturday became Christmas eve and the people in the stock market gave themselves up to its jollities to the extent that only 44,000 shares of all characters changed hands. The market, which was weak in the forenoon, became firm in the general list and closed dull but steady. The coal stocks, however, advanced from ½ to 2½ per cent. The advance from the lowest point of the day's sales was Lake Shore, of which 17,500 shares were among the transactions, also 1,600 Western Union, 1,800 North western, 2,400 Rock Island, 1,200 St. Paul, 1,200 Ohio and Mississippi, 1,900 Toledo and Wabash, 4,500 Michigan Central, 4,700 New Jersey Central and 2,300 Delaware, Lackawanna and Western. The following were the closing quotations:

STOCKS.		STOCKS.	
West. Union Tel.	71¾	Rock Island	102
Quicksilver	19¾	St. Paul	19¾
Do. preferred	35¼	Do. preferred	51½
Pacific Mail	34¼	Toledo & Wabash	9¼
Mariposa	....	Do. preferred	19¾
Do. preferred	33	Ft. Wayne	90
Adams Express	88	Terre Haute	3
Wells-Fargo Ex	88	Do. preferred	9
American Ex	52	Ohio & Mississippi	10
United States Ex	92	Ohio preferred	30
New York Central	102¼	Union Pacific	21
Erie	33	Do. preferred	75
Do. preferred	67½	Atlantic & P. Tel	7¾
Harlem	132	Atlantic & P. pref.	20
Do. preferred	133	Missouri Pacific	74
Michigan Central	90¾	Indiana Central	13
Panama	135	Hannibal & St. Jo	13½
Lake Shore	58¾	Hannibal & St. Jo. pf	30
Illinois Central	96	Union Pac. stock	58
Cleve. and Pitts	87½	Central Pac. bonds	97
Northwestern	37¾	Union Pac. bonds	103
Do. preferred	86	Do. land grants	100
C. C. & I. C.	37	Do. S. F. bonds	104
N. J. Central	36¾		

GOVERNMENTS.

U. S. coupons, 1881	117½	New 5's	112
5-20's, 1865	113¾	New 4½'s	103½
5-20's, 1865, new	113¾	10-40's, registered	110½
5-20's, 1867	114¼	10-40's, coupons	110¾
5-20's, 1868	113½	Currency 6's	121¾

STATE BONDS.

Tennessee, old	37¾	Virginia, old	20
Tennessee, new	37¾	Missouri 6's	107½
Virginia, new	37¾		

LONDON, December 23, 5 P. M.—Silver unchanged. Consols 94. United States 5-20's, 1865, 105; do. 1867, 108; 10 40's, 107¾; new 5's, 107. Railroad securities—

New York Central 103; Erie 9¾; preferred 17.

PARIS, December 23.—Rentes 105 francs 15 centimes.

FRANKFORT, December 23.—United States bonds—New 5's 101¾.

NEW ORLEANS, December 23.—Gold 107⅝@108. Sight exchange on New York ¼ per cent. discount. Sterling exchange 517½.

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, December 23, 1876.

The quotations of the general markets here might almost as well as not be stereotyped for the present, as the changes in them are small and few in number; and this peculiarity, it is thought, will continue at least until after the holiday time. If there is anything deserving of notice in the markets, it is a growing firmness and the consequent expectations of activity.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce in this city since those reported yesterday are the following:

Flour, bbls	1,134	Cheese, lbs	20
Corn, bus	1,253	Butter, pkgs	94
Wheat, bus	1,080	Bacon, pcs	1,250
Oats, bus	5,418	Bacon, lbs	25
Apples, bbls	50	Hay, bales	81

The receipts of the leading articles of produce in this city during the week ending today, compared with the corresponding receipts for the three preceding weeks, are as follows:

Leather

Week ending	Dec. 2.	Dec. 9.	Dec. 16	Dec. 23.
Flour, bbls	7,522	7,886	8,379	8,078
Rye flour, bbls	1,580	954	155	106
Cheese, bxs	1,498	1,349	330	209
Corn, bus	6,007	6,401	7,235	6,425
Wheat, bus	6,455	5,120	3,940	1,189
Rye, bus	5,015	5,600	7,670	4,810
Barley, bus	3,225	6,402	1,160	2,955
Oats, bus	15,280	14,515	12,004	27,215
Butter, pkgs	417	519	453	476
Bacon, pcs	6,342	17,974	15,796	23,395
Bacon, lbs	325	109	110	251
Hams, pcs	8,568	2,939	290	379
Hay, bales	1,840	973	905	999

The quotations given in the following reports are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free in elevator.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

GRAIN—The grain market stands firm, at the figures given yesterday, although some dealers are disposed to think that Ohio and Pennsylvania red wheat should not be quoted higher than 1 40, or all at the outside. In view of the disagreement as to price among the dealers, we simply note that fact and report the quotations unchanged, as follows: Prime Ohio and Pennsylvania red wheat at 1 40@1 43 per bushel; amber do at 1 41 at the outside. In view of the figures of yesterday unchanged. Yellow shelled corn is held at 36@ 36 per bushel; No. 1 amber do 37@37½; prime red wheat from 56@65 75; in sacks 2c less ₱ barrel. The jobbing prices of mixed feed remain as follows: Choice brands of red winter wheat flour $6 50@6 75; white wheat flour $7 25@7 50; choice do $6 25@6 50; Minnesota $6 85@7 15; fancy St. Louis $6 75@7 25; Graham flour $5 50@5 75; superfine, $3 50@3 75; buckwheat $4 75 ₱ barrel; Rye flour $4 25@4 50 ₱ barrel.

Flour—The market is a little firmer to-day. The supply is somewhat lighter, barely balancing the demand, with no accumulation.

HAY—The market is quoted from wagons at $12 00@16 00 ₱ ton. No. 1 timothy $13 00@16 00; No. 2 timothy $11 00@12 00. Baled from first hands $14 00@15 00 as to quality and position. Prairie—Upland $10 00@12 00; mixed $9 00@11 00.

MILL FEED—Is quiet at the following rates: Bran $12 50@13 00 per ton; middlings $20 00@22 00; seconds and shipstuffs $15 00@17 00; chopped feed $20 00@22 00.

Country Produce.

The market to-day, as yesterday, is good, and, as yesterday, devoid of changes worthy of special notice. We reprint the quotations unchanged in everything except hops, which are reported lower.

APPLES—Are rather dull and quoted at 75c@$1 25 ₱ bbl for common; prime $1 25@1 50. A few particularly choice ones were sold at $1 75.

APPLE BUTTER—Is dull also, and held at 10@ 12c ₱ gallon.

BEESWAX—Dull and quoted at 28@30c ₱ lb.

BEANS—Are in fair demand at $1 90@2 00 for prime white stock.

BROOM-CORN—Is in some demand in small lots, with prices unchanged from figures recently given. We quote as follows: Choice hurl at 6@6c, as to quality; brush that will work up 5@5½c; crooked hurl and crooked-speed 3@4c; inferior not desired; crooked in fair demand at about 3 per cent. off from the prices given for Self-Working.

BUTTER—Good butter is scarce and sells readily, but inferior is in poor demand and a slow sale. We quote Creamery rolls at 29@30c; prime to choice solid packed 15@19c; do roll 20@22c; choice dairy rolls 24@26c.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Is moderately active and steady. Prime quality we quote at $3 75@4 00 per cwt.

CRANBERRIES—The market is steady and prices firm at the following figures. Prime Ohio factory at 14@15c in round lots; jobbing at 18@ 20c. New York cranberries in round lots, 5½@6c in a jobbing way. Young American 12c; Nutmeg 12c.

CRANBERRIES—The supply is sufficient and prices remain at $8 00@10 00 ₱ barrel; $3 25@ 3 50 ₱ bushel.

CIDER—The demand is fair and supply liberal. Prices range from $4 50@4 50, barrel, according, for common; $4 00@5 00 for extra choice.

DRIED FRUIT—Very dull and prices as previously given. We may quote dried apples nominal at 3½@3½c ₱ lb for prime, and 5@5½c for fancy; dried peaches 11@12c; evaporated peaches 25c.

DRIED PEAS—There is a good demand for new crops at $1 50@1 75 per bushel.

EGGS—Strictly fresh are worth 28@28c ₱ doz. en, and scarce; picked are plenty at 24@25c.

FEATHERS—Choice are quoted at 60@65c in whole-hog lots; lower qualities 50@55c.

GAME—The market is well supplied and prices firm as follows: Venison—saddles 10@ 12c ₱ lb; do hams 10@20c ₱ lb. Whole deer 10@12c ₱ lb. Quails $1 50@1 75 per dozen. Pheasants $5 00@6 00 per dozen. Rabbits 25@30c per pair.

HONEY—We can report a fair trade demand for new California at 22@25c ₱ lb domestic 20c ₱ lb.

HOPS—New crop, 25@28c. Market dull and inactive.

NUTS—Are in good supply and the market is easy. We quote Ohio chestnuts at $5 ₱ bushel; walnuts 8oc ₱ bushel; hickory nuts at 50@1 75 ₱ bushel; shellbarks $1 50@1 75.

ONIONS—The market has been somewhat disturbed, and the quotation now is $1 75@2 00 ₱ barrel.

POULTRY—The demand is lively and the receipts comparatively light. Dressed chickens and turkeys are scarce and quoted at some advances. We quote live chickens by the coop at 40@45c ₱ pair; dressed 10@12c ₱ lb. Live turkeys 7½@8c each; dressed 13½@14c ₱ lb. Ducks 45@60c ₱ pair; dressed 10@13c ₱ lb. Geese 10@12c each.

POTATOES—Are in good demand, and the receipts are still light. We continue to quote: Prime peachblows from store at $1 25@1 50 ₱ bushel; lower grades 90c@$1 05.

VINEGAR—There is a good trade demand at 17 @18c ₱ gallon for prime country stock; 14@15c for best city make.

Provisions.

A pretty good trade in provisions is reported, the market being firm, but entirely unchanged.

BACON—The market is steady. Jobbing quotations are as follows: Shoulders 8c ₱ pound; short rib sides 10c; clear sides 10½c.

CUT AND CURED MEATS—Hams were easy at 12½c ₱ lb for extra sugar-cured. Breakfast bacon rules easy and we quote sugar-cured 12½@13c. Shoulders were steady at 9½c. Dried beef, sugar-cured, was firm at 14½c. Beef tongues, ₱ dozen, are quoted at ₱ 50.

LARD—Demand fair and market steady. We quote kettle rendered in tierces 8c; in half barrels 10½c ₱ lb; in buckets 12½c ₱ lb; in 5-lb caddies 14½c ₱ lb; in 5-lb cadies 14 ₱ lb; in 2-lb cadies 15c ₱ lb; in 1-lb cadies 16 ₱ lb; in 3-lb pails 15½c ₱ lb. Leaf lard rules at 11c in tierces.

HAMS—The market is quiet. We quote best make of extra at 9@9½c; current make 8½c. No. 1 at 7½ ₱ gallon; No. 2 at 60c; miners' oil, white winter, 58@60c; yellow winter, 50@55c.

MESS PORK—Is firm and higher at $13 00 per barrel.

TALLOW—We quote chandlers', city rendered, at 9@9½c ₱ lb; country do 7½@8c ₱ lb; rough 5½c ₱ lb.

Groceries.

The demand for groceries continues fair and dealers have no complaint to make. The market is quiet and firm at the quotations made in the prices-current below:

Green Coffees.	₱ lb.	*Sugars.*	₱ lb.
Fancy Rio	21@22c	Standard A	11¾@11¾c
Choice Rio	20½@	Standard B	11⅜@11⅝c
Prime Rio	19½@	Do. extra C	10¾@11⅛c
Good Rio	20 c	Extra C—yel	9¾@10 c
Ordinary Rio	19½c	C—yellow	9¼@9½c
Java	30@32c	Franklin, B. 10's	10½@10¾c
Roasted Coffees.		New Orleans	9¼@ 9¾c
Rio in papers	24@25c	Cut Loaf	12½@13c
Rio, gilt in bulk	22@24c	Crushed	13 c
Java, in papers	30@32c	Powdered	12½c
Java, in bulk	30c	Granulated	12½c
Teas.		*Molasses.*	₱ gal.
Young Hyson	25@31 00	Strictly ch. N. O	68@72
Gunpowder	35@ 90	*Syrups.*	
Imperial	30@ 80	Ex. white stripe	64@65c
Japan	27@ 35	Sugar drips	55c
Oolong	25@ 40	Lower grades	50@55c
Fancy do	1 00	*Starch.*	₱ lb.
Souchong	28@ 75	Pearl	8½@8½c
Spices (whole).	₱ c.	Silver gloss	9½
Cloves	45 c	Corn	7½@10½c
Allspice	20 c	*Candles.*	
Cassia	20@21 c	Star, full wt	16 c
Nutmegs	80@1 15	Choice Carline	6½@7 c
Pepper	18 c	Patna	7 @7½c
Soaps.		Galena	7 @7½c
Irish soap, ₱ box	4 00	Louisiana	6 c
B. S. Star, ₱ box	5 75	*Soda.*	
Babbitt's best, ₱ bx	6 75	31-carb, in 1/2 pkgs	6 c
Gold do	5 50	31-carb, in 6-lb pkgs	6 c
Extra olive do	3 80	31-carb, in papers	6½c
Do. N. Y. City, ₱ bx	2 90	*Candies.*	
German mottled do	3 00	Stick	11@12c
Castiles, ₱ box	8 00	Mould	10@10½c

FISH—The market is moderately active with a fair demand and unchanged prices. Quotations are as follows:

	Per bbl.		Per bbl.
Extra No. 1 Mess mackerel	$27 00	Round herring	$6 00
Extra No. 1 shore	20 00	Split Labrador do	7 50
No. 1 bay	17 00	Lake Pick., fall'n	3 50
Extra No. 2 large	12 00	Lake Herring, do	2 25
No. 2 medium	12 50	Lge Georges cod	6
Large No. 3	11 00	Do. fish, ₱ lb	6
No. 3 medium	10 00	Medium Georges	5¾
Whitefish, hf-bbls	5 00	Pollock, ₱ lb	3½
Lake Trout, do	4 50	Scaled herring do	40

FOREIGN FRUITS—There is a moderate trade. We quote as follows: Raisins—Layers, new, per box, $2 25; London layers, new, $3 25; Valencias, new, 10½c ₱ lb; Muscatel, new, 10½c ₱ lb. Currants 7½c. Citron 30c. Prunes 6½c. Figs, Smyrna figs, new, 18c. Brazil nuts 10c. Filberts 12½c. Walnuts, Naples 20c; Marbot 15c; Sicily filberts 12c. Smyrna figs, new, 18c. Brazil nuts 10c. Walnuts, Naples 20c; Marbot 15c; Sicily filberts 12c. Almonds, Languedoc 22c; do shelled 38c; do ordinary 25c; do Jordan 30c; do paper shell 28c. Wal nuts—Naples 20c; Marbot 15c; Sicily filberts 12c. Smyrna figs, new, 18c. Brazil nuts 10c. Cocoanuts $4 50@5 00 per hundred. Lemons—Messaroni 11@12c. Palermo, ₱ box, $5 00. Oranges—Florida $3 50 ₱ hundred. Cocoanuts $7 50 ₱ hundred.

CANNED GOODS—Are fair at unchanged quotations. We quote green peas, 2 ₱ cans per doz; raspberries do ₱ do; strawberries do ₱ do; gooseberries do ₱ do; pineapples do, ₱ 2 do; blackberries do, $1 50; peaches, 2 ₱ cans per doz; tomatoes do, ₱ do; pickles, bbls, $6 50; hhds, $7 50.

General Merchandise.

ALCOHOL AND HIGHWINES—We quote alcohol at $2 20@2 25 ₱ gallon; high wines at $1 14@1 15 ₱ gallon.

BAGS AND BAGGING—There is a steady demand at steady prices. We quote: Extra jutes bags 24c; do second-hand 22c; Linen bags 24c; American A's 23c; Philadelphia A's 23c; California grain bags 8c; English do 12c; Penn Mill 3 bushel 22c; do 2½ bushel 20c; do 2 bushel 19c; Allegheny 2 bushel do 20c.

BAKING POWDER—Quotes as follows: ¼ ₱ cans $1 50 ₱ dozen; ½ ₱ cans $3 00; 1 ₱ cans $5 50; 5 ₱ cans $26 00; 10 ₱ boxes 40c ₱ ₱. Market steady and demand good.

BRITTING—We reported recently that manufacturers had, since the rise in leather, been losing on this article and that an advance of ½ ₱ foot in all sizes up to sixteen inches might be expected. The advance has occurred, having gone into operation on the 18th inst. We quote the list of prices as follows:

Per foot.		Per foot.	
1 inch wide	$ 5	inches wide	$ 57
1¼ inch wide	15	5½ inches wide	61
2 inches wide	21	6 inches wide	69
2½ inches wide	27	7 inches wide	81
3 inches wide	33 ⅜	8 inches wide	93
3½ inches wide	39 10	inches wide	1 17
4 inches wide	45 12	inches wide	1 41
4½ inches wide	51 14	inches wide	1 65

Discount 15 to 25 per cent., as to quality and quantity.

BROOMS—The demand is fair at former prices. The following are jobbing rates as quoted by manufacturers' agents:

No. 1 hurl	$1 50
No. 2 hurl	1 75
No. 3 hurl	2 00
No. 4 hurl	2 25
No. 5 hurl	2 50
No. 6 hurl	2 75
No. 3 carpet	3 25
No. 4 carpet	3 50
No. 5 carpet	3 75
No. 3 fancy parlor	4 00
No. 4 fancy parlor	4 25
Ballroom (extra heavy)	2 75@3 25
Hotel, fine corn (extra heavy)	4 00@5 00
Whisps, 6, 8 and 10 inch	1 25@1 75
Toy brooms	1 25@1 75
Misses' brooms	2 00

BRUSHES AND LEATHER—The market has been fair since our last report, but the prices have not changed either way. We give the following as the quotations:

Leather

Oak sole, country ₱ lb	30@ 31
Oak sole, city	36@ 38
Red sole, Buenos Ayres heavy	29@ 32
Red sole, Buenos Ayres mid	29@ 32
Red sole, Ornoco and Cala. heavy	29@ 31
Red sole, Ornoco and Cala. mid	28@ 31
Red sole, good damaged	25@ 26
Oak, rough	24@ 27
Harness, city sole, ₱ foot	37@ 40
Harness, No. 2 and common	34@ 36
Collar, oak sides, ₱ foot	37@ 40
Fair skirting ₱ lb	37@ 40
Fair bridle, ₱ dozen	84@96 00
Belt leather ₱ lb	39@ 41
Finished calf	90@$1 20
Finished upper, ₱ foot	16@ 20
Finished kips ₱ lb	50@ 58

Hides.

Green salted cows	8 @ 8½
Green salted steers, light	8 @ 8½
Green salted steers, heavy	9 @ 9½
Green salted calf	12 @ 13
Green butcher cows	5½
Green butcher steers	6
Green butcher steers, heavy	7
Green butcher calf	10
Kentucky rough	6

OILCAKE—Trade is fairly active and the market is strong. We quote jobbing prices as follows: Meal—Cotton seed oil, pure, per gal lon, 90c; linseed oil—No. 1, 60c; boiled, 62c; light, 150 degrees fire test, 35c; carbon, 110 degrees fire test, 27½@28c; extra engine (amber color), 30c. Pure sperm, 75c; extra sperm (dark), 65c; extra engine (dark), 35c; spindle oil, 50c; West Virginia, 26 degrees gravity, 30c; No. 2 West Virginia, 25c; and Lubricating oil, 24 degrees gravity, 20@22c; car oil, No. 1, 18c; car oil, No. 2, 16c. Parties burning or using 50 oil 140 fire test 15@16c; residuum (prepared), 9@ 0; residuum (common), 8½ 6c; axle grease, No. 1, 9@9½c; No. 2, 8c; roping mill grease, ₱ pound, 7c; bleached winter sperm oil, 75c; cod oil, for tanners, 50@55c; straits oil, for tanners, 50@55c.

RAGS—The market is steady. We quote cotton mixed 2½@2½c ₱ lb and woollen 5@6c.

STOVE POLISH—Sales made at $5 75 ₱ gross.

SAPOLIO—Cases of 6 dozen, $5 00; hand sapolio, cases of 6 dozen, $5 00.

SALT—The market is steady and unchanged. No sales in car lots at $1 00 per barrel. We quote jobbing prices at $1 15 ₱ bbl for No. 1; $1 25 for extra do; $1 40 for dairy. Liverpool coarse is in fair request by sacks of 220 lbs, $2 00@2 10 per sack; dairy salt in small sacks $2 25@2 50 ₱ bbl.

WOODEN WARE—The market is quiet but rather nominal, former quotations being unchanged as follows:

No. 1 tubs ₱ dozen	$8 50
No. 2 tubs ₱ dozen	7 50
No. 3 tubs ₱ dozen	6 50
3-hoop pails ₱ dozen	2 10
3-hoop pails ₱ dozen	2 40
Washboard, patent, ₱ dozen	2 00
Washboards, common, ₱ dozen	2 00@2 10
Clothes pins, round head, ₱ box	70

WRAPPING PAPER—Straw strong and steady, ₱ bundle; medium, 52c; double crown, 70c; double medium, 61c; tissue manila, 35c@ 42 65 ₱ ream; fine do, 50@55c; hard do, 45@50c; manila, 10@10½c ₱ lb; No. 2 do, 8@9c; hardware do, 6@6½c; No. 1 do, 4@4½c; flour sacks (paper), $2 00@ 2 40 ₱ 1,000; do (cotton), $20 00@22 00; grocers bags (1 lb), $1 80@2 00; 2 lbs do, $2 70; 5 lbs do, $3 70; 10 lbs do, $6 00@6 50; 20 lbs do, $9 50; 25 lbs do, $10 50.

Petroleum—Weekly Review.

December 23.—The following are the receipts of crude for the past week, by pipe line and railroad, with a comparison of sales for previous years; also, the exports of refined eastward by the various railroads:

	Rec'pts crude pail bbls.	Exp'ts Penn'a R. R. bbls.	Exp'ts At. Val. R. R. bbls.
Monday, December 18	3,887	....	2,657
Tuesday, Dec. 19	5,394	....	3,607
Wednesday, Dec. 20	6,666	....	4,746
Thursday, Dec. 21	6,404	....	2,338
Friday, Dec. 22	1,924	....	2,500
Saturday, Dec. 23	....	....	2,940
Total for week	23,904	15	17,178
Since January 1	3,565,588	1,250	803,516
To December 23, 1876	3,589,492	1,265	821,694
Same time 1875	4,104,439	28,711	629,588
Same time 1874	3,110,077	16,926	1,161,272
Same time 1873	1,985,965	91,044	267,140
Same time 1872	1,186,591	120,503	623,007
Same time 1871	1,146,495	102,641	644,930
Same time 1870	1,050,810	191,925	619,235
Same time 1869	1,006,320	91,102	450,000
Same time 1868	1,092,221	185,135	530,659

RUBBER—The market during the week was dull and nearly without considerable fluctuations, prices of the time being very unsettled and at times largely demoralized. A reaction of 5c was down to 45 50 per barrel at Packers; a other stated it reached $3 95. The charges during the day were very frequent. The heavy feeling in the Rubber Boot Company is largely demoralized the Eastern holders of refined. The closing prices at Packers were nearly the same as the week before last, but holders are not disposed to let either the raw or the refined go, and there is little doubt but that prices will reach that point they enter the market themselves and produce reaction. The rates of refined here are about 5c below last week's prices.

The following are the sales and resales of petroleum for the past two week:

	Bbls.		Bbls.
Monday	57,000	Thursday	54,000
Tuesday	94,600	Friday	54,000
Wednesday	61,000	Saturday	57,000
Total			357,000
Last week			288,000

CRUDE RECEIPTS—The following are the crude receipts for the past two weeks:

	Last week.	This week.
Crude received, barrels	23,352	22,904

The following are the crude receipts from all points by rail and river for the past twelve years, from January 1 to

	Barrels
December 23, 1876	1,669,36
Same time 1875	1,104,49
Same time 1874	1,340,67
Same time 1873	1,985,96
Same time 1872	1,186,59
Same time 1871	1,146,49
Same time 1870	1,050,81
Same time 1869	1,006,32
Same time 1868	1,092,22
Same time 1867	1,146,49
Same time 1866	1,253,32
Same time 1865	439,24

EXPORTS OF REFINED—The following are the exports of refined oil East for the past two weeks:

	Last This week. week.
Allegheny Valley R. R.	22,390 17,178

The following are the exports of refined oil East by the various routes for the past five years, from January 1 to December 16:

	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
P. R. R.	120,503	91,044	116,926	28,711	1,250
A. V. R. R.	623,007	787,140	744,072	629,580	820,694
Total	743,510	858,184	860,998	658,291	821,944

By river to Richmond.....128,000
By P. & C. R. R.....55,626

SATURDAY.

CRUDE—The market ruled

CITY MATTERS.

For eighty-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Weather Report.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV., ROOM 24, FIRST NATIONAL BANK, PITTSBURGH, PA., December 24, 1876.

Time.	Bar.	Th'r.	Hum	Wind Dir.	Wind Miles per hour	Weath.
7 A. M.	30.455	18	84	N. E.	6	Cloudy
2 P. M.	30.417	18	78	N. E.	6	Cloudy
9 P. M.	30.349	17	83	E.	6	Cloudy

Mean barometer...30.38; Highest thermom... 29
Mean thermom ... 17.5 Lowest thermom... 17

WAR DEPARTMENT,
SIGNAL SERVICE U. S. ARMY,
PITTSBURGH, December 24, 1876, 10:48 P. M.

Cairo, Ills.—Ther. 29; wind N.; cloudy.
Cincinnati, O.—Ther. 19; wind N. E.; light snow.
Davenport, Iowa—Ther. 19; wind N. E.; cloudy.
Denver, Col.—Ther. —3; wind S.; clear.
Indianapolis, Ind.—Ther. 17; wind N. E.; light snow.
Keokuk, Iowa—Ther. 13; wind N. E.; cloudy.
Leavenworth, Ks.—Ther. 16; wind N. E.; clear.
Louisville, Ky.—Ther. 24; wind N. E.; light snow.
Memphis, Tenn.—Ther. 26; wind N.W.; cloudy.
Nashville, Tenn.—Ther. 32; cloudy.
Omaha, Neb.—Ther. 16; wind N. E.; cloudy.
Pittsburgh—Ther. 18; wind E.; cloudy.
Portland, Oregon—Ther. 44; cloudy.
Salt Lake City—Ther. 25; wind S. E.; cloudy.
San Diego, Cal.—Ther. 50; E.; clear.
San Francisco, Cal.—Ther. 50; clear.
Shreveport, La.—Ther. 39; wind N.; cloudy.
St. Louis, Mo.—Ther. 15; wind N. E.; cloudy.
Vicksburg, Miss.—Ther. 35; wind N.; cloudy.

Quick Relief From Croup

is afforded by Dr. Jayne's Expectorant, the old family stand-by for Coughs and Colds, Pulmonary and Bronchial Affections.

M'wd*

Pennsylvania Female College.

The next term will open January 3d. Grammar School Department same date. For information apply to the President, Thomas C. Strong.

Iron City College

corner Penn avenue and Sixth street, Pittsburgh. Day and evening sessions. Students admitted at any time. For terms call on, or address J. C. Smith, A. M. Principal.

The Return of Robert Grier.

EX-Cashier Grier has as yet made no statement of the affairs of the defunct Union Trust Company, and will only do so when the attorneys in the case have arranged as to the time and manner.

No Trace of Wall.

No trace of W. C. Wall, the defaulting clerk in the money order department of the Postoffice, has been discovered by the police, at least they report none. A story is afloat that about the time of the discovery of the defalcation a movement was on foot to rob the Postoffice with Wall's connivance. The story goes that in the night time Wall was to have admitted several thieves, who would attempt an entrance to the safe. This is hardly probable, and it would be almost impossible for such a plan to succeed.

A Rat Story.

A well known banker of this city had a valuable cow, which gave a large quantity of rich milk, and was held in high esteem for general good qualities. All at once the supply of the lacteal fluid grew smaller by degrees and beautifully less, until the yield was scarcely worth having. The family were greatly surprised at this, as the animal was in perfect health and in the height of her season. It was hinted that some person whom love for milk overcame his scruples against stealing was at the bottom of the mischief, and that, like a thief in the night, he entered the stable where the cow was and relieved her of the daily supply. Vigilant watch for the thief, and his vigilance was rewarded by a most singular discovery. Just after daylight in the morning, he drew very near the cow's stall from its hiding place, and going to where the cow was lying, it stood on its hind feet, with its forepaws on the cow's udder, and applying the mouth to one of the teats, succeed in its fill of milk. When it was satisfied, another rodent took its place, and so on, until the supply was exhausted and the family swindled by the rats. The astonishing sight of the morning's supply of the much coveted fluid. This story is well vouched for.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

United States Circuit Court—Judge McKennan.

W. C. McCarthy (Mayor) vs. Conrad Morgan, N. Snyder & Co., Christ Freund and Archy Taylor. Suit to recover for infringement of complainant's patent vault ...ner. Court allowed a final decree sus... complainant's patent, and allow... to be issued accordingly. ...or infringement.

...ial Tiger vs. ...mmonwealth ex rel. Ar... Writ to ...y. Bill in equity ...roceedings in the ...ict Court. Argued and ...d.

...arings were had in the cases of Torpedo Roberts vs. William Gordon, Jesse Gordon, George S. McGill, Frank Tack, August Tack, Stanley Moorhead and George Seamon. A final decree sustaining Robert's patent was awarded in each case and a restraining order issued. Commissioner Gamble was appointed to assess damages and take testimony.

In the suit of the American Cotton Tie Company vs. Wm. Clark & Co., for the infringement of the Cook, Plant, Brodie, McComie and Morris patents for improvements in cotton bale ties, on motion of Messrs. Duncan & Bakewell, counsel for the complainant, an injunction was granted against the defendants for making and selling the Scott tie. At the same time the American Cotton Tie Company filed a bill in equity against J. S. and J. R. Kennedy, of Texarkana, Ark., for the infringement of one of their patents by the manufacture of the Kennedy tie. The defendants were served with process.

Common Pleas No. 2—Judges Ewing and White.

The argument list will be taken up on Wednesday morning, and jury trials will not be resumed until the second Monday of January.

In the voluntary assignment of John Eurich, J. F. Schroeder and James Digby were appointed appraisers.

George B. Leech vs. William H. Corless. Rule on plaintiff to show cause why the attachment in this case should not be dissolved.

On the voluntary assignment of Henry J. Ulrich, Daniel Wenke and Benjamin Lawrence were appointed appraisers.

Louis Celia vs. Patrick Quinn, previously reported, verdict for defendant.

In the case of Wm. Evans and wife vs. Dolly Pellmeth et al., the jury found for defendants.

Orphans' Court—Judge Hawkins.

Estates of John F. Moore and Alex. P. Moore. Guardian directed to join in a mortgage.

John L. Miller, deceased. Sale of real estate confirmed absolutely.

C. Hartung, deceased. Widow's appraisement presented and approved *nisi*.

Edward Dithridge, deceased. Exceptions filed to account *nunc pro tunc*.

Stella McGinley and Annie McGinley, minors. Wm. Griffin appointed guardian.

Thos. W. Briggs, deceased. Rule on administrator and Commissioner to show why the sale of real estate to Jacob Roeser should not be set aside. Rule absolute.

Wm. W. Lyon, minor. Samuel McCleary discharged from his trust as guardian.

Mary O. Morrow and C. W. Morrow, minors. R. D. Morrow appointed guardian.

Estate of James M. Cooper, deceased. Argued by Messrs. Shiras and Hamilton for exceptants, and M. W. Acheson contra.

Decrees of distribution were made in the estates of Benjamin Trimble, Dorothea Chess, Philip Bigley, Samuel Bell, Walter Wadsworth and John Speer.

AUDIT LIST FOR TUESDAY.

Accounts in estates of John J. Vetter, John F. Peoples, Koehler, Isaiah Dickey, Hugh Kennedy, Ann Aiken, Philip Melvin, Jacob Frost, John O'Donnell and Elizabeth Lepper.

Quarter Sessions—Judge Stowe.

James Allen "Sailor" Burke, for shooting Thomas H. Hunter, was sentenced to the penitentiary for six years and nine months.

William Durning and Alex. Killen, convicted of burglary on oath of David M. Martin, were sentenced two years and six months each to the penitentiary.

Joseph Saville, having pleaded *nolo contendere* to the charge of receiving stolen goods, was given one year and three months to the penitentiary.

C. Ford, convicted of an attempt to commit a felony, was sentenced to the Workhouse for nine months.

Henry Remensnyder, having pleaded *nolo contendere* to a charge of larceny, was sent to the Reform School.

Charles Wilson, convicted of entering a building with intent to commit a felony, was sentenced to one year and nine months to the penitentiary.

THE TEMPERANCE WORK.

Great Meeting at Library Hall—Addresses by Col. Realf and Others.

Library Hall was crowded to its utmost capacity last evening to see and hear Francis Murphy, the temperance reformer, and others engaged in the work. As twenty-five cents was charged for admittance a handsome sum must have been realized. After religious exercises and a few remarks Col. Richard Realf was introduced.

COLONEL REALF'S SPEECH.

Colonel Realf said: The time draws near the birth of Christ. To-morrow is the anniversary of that wondrous star portended birth which constitutes the pivotal center on which all the Christian ages revolve. Everywhere to-night something of the spirit of those "glad tidings of great joy" then borne across the Judean plains enters and vivifies human life and progress. Not only, the speaker said, had the name of the Nazarene passed over our institutions, but something of His Spirit had penetrated and infused our whole political, social and domestic existence. The idea of universality of the Fatherhood of the Divine and the brotherhood of the human, which kindled the world now, came in with the birth of the Bethlehemite babe, striking a death blow at the root of hereditary and caste principles, and everywhere teaching that worth and dignity rest, not upon origin and descent, but upon character. Herod of old was a slave, though he did rule from a throne; but there was not one in all the vast audience who would dare to say that the work of that carpenter's shop at Nazareth was not noble and kingly work indeed.

The precious memories which cluster around this hallowed season were, therefore, peculiarly calculated to stir reflection concerning our individual opportunities, duties and responsibilities, which are the correlatives of our boons and blessings, and to challenge our highest manhood and womanhood for their prompt and conscientious discharge.

It was true, as a great poet had sung: "Through the ages one increasing purpose runs, and the thoughts of men are widened with the process of the suns;" but to the end that the whole world might from age to age grow wiser and better, we were all needed. Each hand, of merchant and mechanic, of teacher and editor, of statesman and lawyer, of Episcopalian and Unitarian, of Protestant and Catholic, was required to help rear the great fabric of noble character and noble civilization. Just as, in the limestone rock, there mingled the shell of the microscopic mollusk and the dust of the mammoth mastodon, the gigantic trunk of the cone-tree and the delicate fringe of the fern, so in various upward movements that are redeeming the world mingled the words and deeds and hopes and prayers of all—so mingling and blending that each sincere song by the altar, and each honest heart in any field, might feel that he was an equal worker in the same true cause of quickening the slow steps of humanity and advancing its ascension toward that high destiny which the speaker believed awaited it somewhat beyond the sun and stars.

It was as the natural and logical result of such broodings as these that he stood there to bear witness to the sterling vitality and value of the special work to which Mr. Murphy had consecrated himself. We all were changed by slow degrees; all but the basis of the soul. Our tendencies to evil, our capacities for excellence, were alike in all classes, and Colonel Realf said he had rejoiced to observe, in Mr. Murphy's method of operation, an entire absence of that egotistic affectation of superior sanctity which some well-meaning reformers are prone to assume. No man can confer lasting benefit upon his fellows unless he sets out with a fixed determination to be broad. Motion forward is what the world needs, and certainly Mr. Murphy is a tremendous moral impulse, as is sufficiently shown by the long array of intemperates who through his ministrations have become temperate and set to rise on stepping stones of their dead selves to higher things. Even the criticisms of the practical usefulness criticism lost its voice and sympathy deepened into admiration.

The speaker had no personal experience to relate, nor did he somait himself to the movement chiefly on the score of personal safety. Possibly this was not necessary; although when he thought of the singular sensitiveness of brain and nerve which accompanied the poetic and literary temperament, and of the seductive mastery of stimulants over such temperaments by reason of their power to produce, or rather simulate, exalted conditions of creative feeling, he was by no means assured that this was not requisite. Our higher feelings move our animal nature, and this latter, irritated, can call back a semblance of those emotions; but, as had been said by a speaker who brid